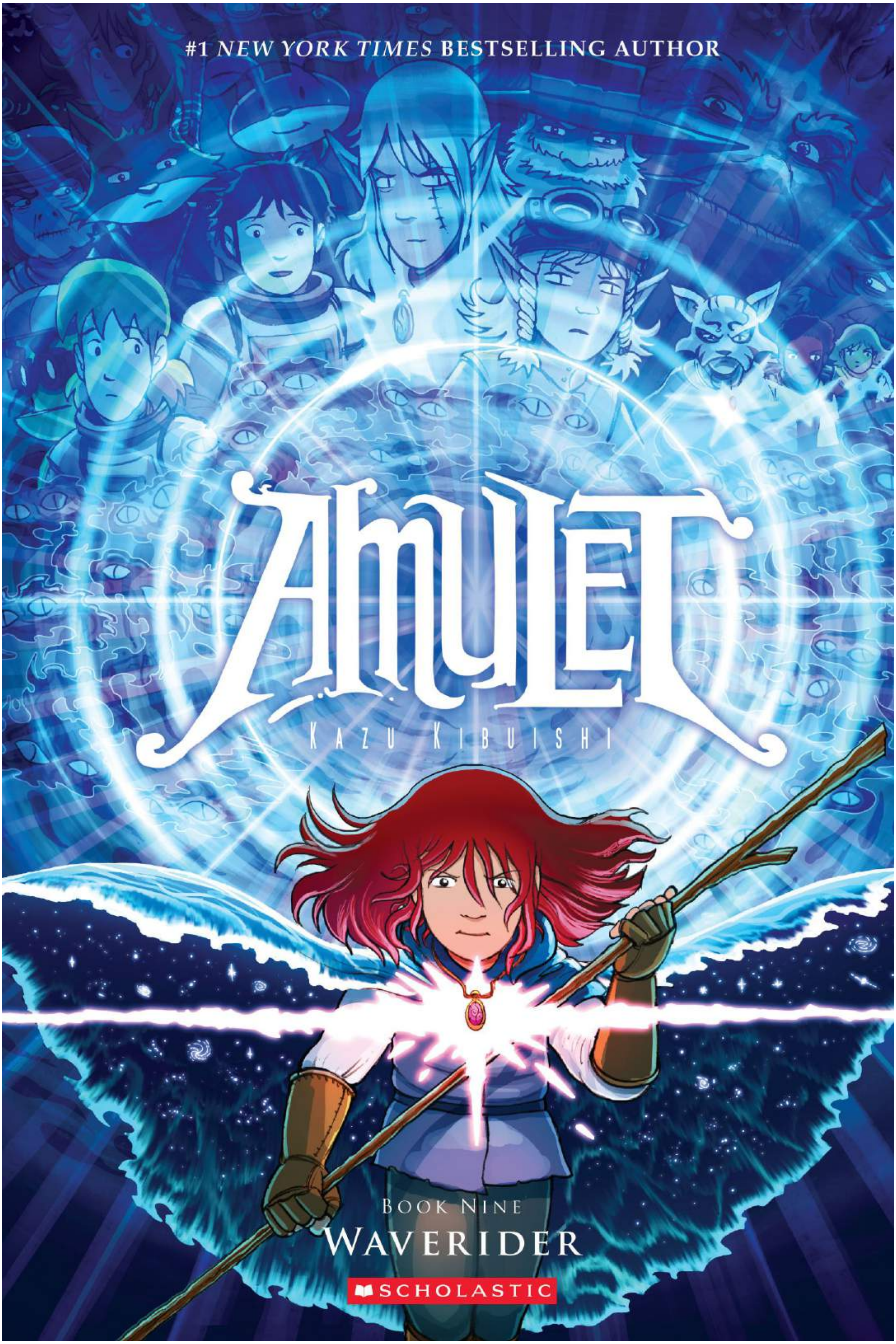
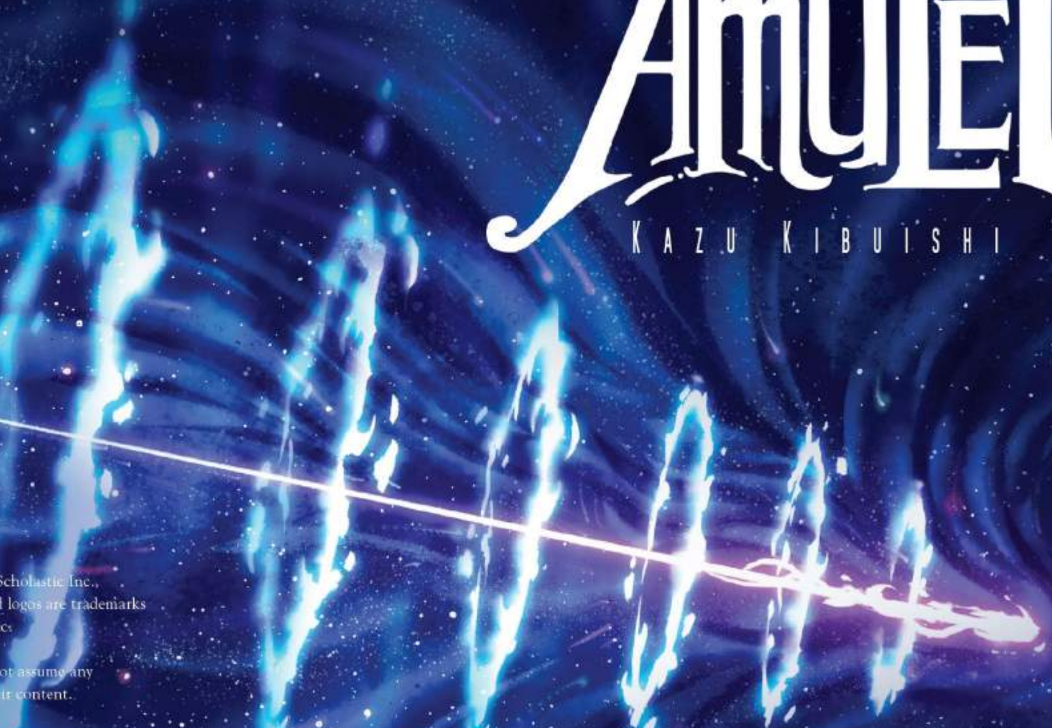


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
AMULET
KAZU KIBUISHI
BOOK NINE
WAVERIDER
SCHOLASTIC

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KAZU KIBUISHI



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BOOK NINE
WAVERIDER

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SCHOLASTIC



EVERY ACTION CREATES A RIPPLE IN TIME AND SPACE.
EVERY RIPPLE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A GIANT WAVE WHEN AMPLIFIED OUT ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.
WHAT WE DO HERE RESONATES FAR BEYOND OUR REACH AND VISION.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF YOUR ACTIONS, EMILY?


DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WEIGHT PUT UPON YOUR SHOULDERS?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, IKOL.
HOW ABOUT YOU?


CONSIDERING THE GIANT MESS THAT YOU'VE MADE--
I'M GOING TO GUESS THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT TROUBLE YOUR ACTIONS CAN CAUSE.
EMILY--
DO YOU INTEND TO ERASE THE WORK THAT I HAVE DONE?
MY INTENTION IS TO FIND MY FAMILY AND RETURN TO EARTH.


AND YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN LIVE PEACEFULLY ON EARTH AFTER ALL YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED HERE?
GATE
YES.
I WILL ADJUST.
I HAVE MY DOUBTS, STONEKEEPER.
MUCH LIKE THE SHADOWS--
OUR WORLD WILL HAUNT YOU--
AND NEVER LET YOU GO.
RRRT! RRT!


YOU BELIEVE THAT OTHERS WANT TO BE FREE--
THE WAY YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE FREE.
BUT YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
THEY ARE HOPELESS, EMILY.
AND THEY CAN BETTER SERVE THE GREATER GOOD IF THEY ARE NOT LEFT TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES.
SZRAK!!
BOOM!
YOU ARE FREE OF THE SHADOW, MY FRIEND.
AND NOW I COULD USE YOUR HELP.
WHAT--
WHY--


CAN YOU TAKE ME TO THE CONTROL CENTER?
I NEED TO CONTACT MY BROTHER, NAVIN HAYES.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? OR MY MOTHER, KAREN HAYES?
WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS TO ME?
WHY HAVE YOU TAKEN MY SHADOW AWAY?
SHE'S HERE!
THE STONEKEEPER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS HERE!
PLEASE TAKE ME BACK!
D61 LV2
AND TAKE HER DOWN!
UNGH!
SHIFFF
SLICE!!


FOOOOOOMM!!!
OOF!
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME...
I CAN HELP YOU.
PLEASE...
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU,
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR HELP.
GO HIDE SOMEPLACE AND STAY OUT OF THE WAY.
STAY HIDDEN UNTIL YOU FIND YOUR COURAGE.
UNDERSTAND?
Y-YES.
NOW, WHERE IS THE COMMAND CENTER?


YOU SEE, STONEKEEPER?
ALLEDIANS ARE WEAK AND CAN BE EASILY MANIPULATED.
THEY ARE HOPELESS WITHOUT MY HELP--
OUR HELP.
DO YOU HEAR ME, EMILY?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LOOKING FOR MY FAMILY.
SUBJECT COORDINATES LOCATED.
SUBJECTS HEADING WEST.
THEY'RE ON THE SURFACE OF TYPHON, DIRECTLY BELOW US.
THAT'S WHERE WE NEED TO GO.
HEY!
BACK AWAY FROM THAT TERMINAL!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT INFECTED BY ONE OF THOSE GHOST THINGS, YOU OUGHT TO GET OUT WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
EVERYONE ON THIS STATION HAS GONE MAD!


IT'S NOT JUST HERE ON THIS STATION.
IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER ALLEDIA, AND LIKELY ON TYPHON, TOO.
SO IT'S EVERYWHERE.
I SIGNED UP FOR THIS MISSION IN PART TO ESCAPE THIS SHADOW MADNESS, BUT I ONLY TRAPPED MYSELF UP HERE WITH IT.
I'M SUCH A FOOL!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND AND FEEL BAD FOR OURSELVES.
CAN YOU PILOT A SPACECRAFT TO THE SURFACE OF TYPHON?
YES--
BUT THE SHADOWS...
THEY SABOTAGED THE SHIPS BY JETTISONING THE FUEL SUPPLY.
WITHOUT FUEL, WE CAN'T POWER THE SHIP.
I CAN POWER THE SHIP.



IS THIS THE BIGGEST PASSENGER SHIP IN THE FLEET?
YEAH. IT IS.
WE HAVE MOBILE SUITS THAT ARE MUCH LARGER IN SIZE, BUT THE STINGRAY CARRIES THE MOST CREW MEMBERS.
AND LIKE I SAID, THE SHADOWS HAVE SABOTAGED ALL THE VEHICLES.
I WOULD BE SHOCKED IF THIS STINGRAY HAD POWER.
JUST KEEP TRYING TO START THE ENGINE AND I'LL ASSIST YOU.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU RUN AN ENGINE WITHOUT FUEL, BUT HERE GOES NOTHING.


RRRT RRRT RRRT
YOU SEE?
NOTHING.
JUST KEEP TRYING.
SZRAK!
SPARK!
SPAK!
FOOOOM!!
OKAY!
WE GOT SOMETHING!


VWOM!!!
VWOM!!
HWEEEEEE
I APPRECIATE YOU HELPING ME ESCAPE THIS PLACE--
BUT WE'RE LEAVING ONE BAD SITUATION FOR ANOTHER.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN AND HEARD, WHAT'S HAPPENING ON TYPHON IS EVEN WORSE.


STONEKEEPER GIANTS HAVE DEVASTATED OUR BASES ON TYPHON.
WE'RE LIKELY HEADED RIGHT INTO A DISASTER SITE.
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GO TO A PLACE LIKE THAT?
I'M GOING THERE TO FIND MY FAMILY AND BRING THEM HOME.
THEY'RE ALIVE ON TYPHON.
I CAN FEEL IT.
SO LONG AS THAT FEELING REMAINS, I WILL WORK TO GET THEM...
TO GET THEM HOME...
FEELING?
NGH...
WHOA, HEY!


STAY WITH ME!
DON'T PASS OUT ON ME!!!
BEEP! BEEP!!
WARNING!
TOTAL POWER LOSS DETECTED--
AW, MAN.
ALL SYSTEMS SHUTTING DOWN IN FIVE...FOUR...
AW-- NO. NO NO NO...
THREE...
TWO...
ONE...


VALCOR,
THE KINGDOM OF THE ELVES


WE'RE THROUGH THE WEST GATE AND APPROACHING THE PALACE ENTRANCE.
I SEE THREE GUARDS AND THEY HAVE WEAPONS.
I CAN TAKE THESE FOOLS OUT WITH MY EYES CLOSED.
NO.
YOUR MISSION OBJECTIVE IS TO GET US PAST THE GATE WITHOUT TROUBLE.
UNDERSTOOD?
GASP!
TRELLIS!
PUT YOUR MASK BACK ON!
PATIENCE, STONEKEEPER.
STAY QUIET JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
IT'S JUST SO HOT IN HERE!
AND THE MASK MAKES IT HARD TO BREATHE.
SHH!
WE'RE AT THE ENTRANCE!


HALT!
WE DON'T HAVE A WAGON ON THE SCHEDULE.
WHAT IS THIS?
WE ARE CARRYING SICK PATIENTS.
THE KING REQUESTED THEY BE BROUGHT TO VALCOR FOR STUDY.
IF WE DO NOT DETERMINE WHAT IS CAUSING THE EPIDEMIC, THE ELF KINGDOM COULD BE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.
WHAT ARE THEY SUFFERING FROM?
EMPATHITIS.
SOUNDS SERIOUS.
IT'S VERY SERIOUS.
JUST MAKE SURE NOT TO LET THEM OUT UNTIL YOU REACH THE INFIRMARY.
GOT IT.


OKAY,
WE'RE THROUGH THE GATE.
WHAT ARE ALL THOSE ELVES DOING OUT THERE?
DIGGING.
THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR BURIED TREASURE AND ANY RESOURCES THEY CAN SELL.
THE KINGDOM IS SUFFERING.
IF THE FALSE KING HAS BEEN DEPOSED, WHO HAVE THEY ADOPTED AS THEIR NEW LEADER?
WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE IS ONE OF THE KING'S FORMER SERVANTS.
HE HAS NOT SHOWN A GREAT ABILITY TO LEAD.
OUR PEOPLE NEED YOU TO RECLAIM YOUR PLACE AS KING, TRELLIS.
OUR NATION HAS MORE PRESSING ISSUES THAN WHOEVER IS SITTING ON THE THRONE.
THE FALSE KING IS ONLY A SYMPTOM OF BIGGER PROBLEMS IN ALLEDIA.


LOOKS LIKE THE PALACE HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED.
WE'RE LATE TO THE PARTY.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RETURN HOME?
HOME?
THIS PLACE NEVER REALLY FELT LIKE HOME.


THAT SMELL--
IT SMELLS LIKE A RAT'S CAGE IN HERE.
NOT RATS.
JUST ELVES WITH NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
THIS KING MUST BE OVERWHELMED.
COUGH.
HACK! COUGH!
THERE HE IS.
WE SHOULD ACT NOW.
READY TO ATTACK WHEN YOU ARE--
ON MY MARK.
TRELLIS--
IF YOU WANTED THIS CROWN, WHY NOT JUST ASK?


GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MY FRIENDS.
GABILAN!
YOU'RE ALIVE!
LET'S TAKE HIM DOWN!
FOR THE TRUE KING!
SHING!!
LONI, NO!
LET ME GO, SIR!
STAND DOWN!
HE IS NOT OUR ENEMY!
HE HAS STOLEN YOUR CROWN, SIR!
WE MUST GET IT BACK!


I HAVEN'T STOLEN ANYTHING.
THE ELVES APPOINTED ME THEIR KING IN THE ABSENCE OF LEADERSHIP.
LOOK AROUND YOU TO SEE THE DAMAGE INFLICTED BY EMILY AND HER STONE.
STONEKEEPERS LIKE YOU HAVE THEM FRIGHTENED, FOR GOOD REASON.
HOW CAN THEY TRUST THOSE WHO WIELD SO MUCH POWER?
EMILY WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HER STONE.
SHE WASN'T IN CONTROL!
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE SHOULD BE AFRAID OF--
A LOSS OF CONTROL.
I HAVE STARTED TO LEARN THAT WE CANNOT CONTROL EVERYTHING, GABILAN.
AND IT MAY BRING MANY OF US GREAT HARM IF WE TRY.


BUT DID YOU NOT COME HERE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THIS KINGDOM?
DID YOU NOT COME HERE TO TAKE THIS THRONE BY FORCE?
TRELLIS--
SHOW THEM, TRELLIS.
SHOW THEM WHY STONEKEEPERS CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH THE POWERS THEY HAVE INHERITED.
SHOW THEM HOW YOU TAKE THINGS BY FORCE.



NO.
I'M SORRY, GABILAN.
I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM.
YOU ARE NOW THE KING.
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO THANK YOU FOR MY LOST MEMORY.
IT HELPED REMIND ME WHO I AM.
SIR, NO!
LET US KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO TO SERVE THE KINGDOM OF ELVES.
I WILL OFFER ASSISTANCE WHERE I CAN.


I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU MADE IT OUT OF THE CORTEX ALIVE.
IT WAS WEIGHING HEAVILY ON MY MIND.
I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU ALIVE, AS WELL.
DID YOU NOT COME HERE TO COMMANDEER THE THRONE?
WE MADE A MISTAKE.
REGARDLESS OF WHO WEARS THE CROWN, THE PROBLEMS FACING ALLEDIA DO NOT CHANGE.
WE ARE ALL GOING TO FAIL OR SUCCEED TOGETHER.
WE WILL WORK WITH YOU AND YOUR ADVISERS WITH THE HOPE THAT YOU DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE ELVES.


YOU MAY NOT TRUST ANY STONEKEEPERS--
BUT WE WILL HAVE TO PLAY A PART IF WE WANT TO STOP THE SHADOWS.
AND WE WILL ALSO BE NEEDED TO HELP REBUILD ALLEDIA.
IT IS TRUE.
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?
HELP PROVIDE NEIGHBORING LANDS WITH THE TOOLS THEY REQUIRE TO REBUILD THEIR CITIES--
CITIES LIKE LUCIEN, POMO, KANALIS.
THE STRONGER THEY ARE, THE BETTER PREPARED WE WILL ALL BE.
IT WILL BE DONE.
WHAT ABOUT THE INVADING SHADOWS?
HOW WILL WE DEFEND AGAINST THEM?



I DON'T THINK THERE IS MUCH WE CAN DO ABOUT THE SHADOWS BUT TO PREPARE FOR THEIR ARRIVAL.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE TRUST IN EMILY AND OUR FRIENDS TO BRING PEACE TO TYPHON.
THE FATE OF TWO PLANETS IN THE HANDS OF A STONEKEEPER WHO HAS PROVEN SHE CAN'T CONTROL HER OWN POWERS.
YES.
IT IS THE BEST CHANCE WE HAVE OF PREVENTING A TOTAL WAR.
YOU BELIEVE THE CYCLE OF WAR CAN BE STOPPED?
GABILAN--
I SHARE YOUR PESSIMISM, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO BUT TRY TO STOP IT?
COULD YOU LIVE WITH YOURSELF FOR NOT TRYING?


THIS IS WHY I WANTED TO BE RID OF YOU STONEKEEPERS.
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
WE WOULD NEED TO FACE THIS CONFLICT WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
THAT IS CORRECT, MY FRIEND--
NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY TO RUN AWAY.
SO LET US DO WHAT WE CAN WITH THE TIME WE HAVE.
REBUILDING ALLEDIA WILL BE OUR ACT OF DEFIANCE.


CARDBOT


I'M IN CIELIS.
MISS EMILY!
YOU'RE AWAKE!
THEODORE!
MASTER SILAS WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN HIS OFFICE.
SILAS IS ALIVE?
OF COURSE!
PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.


WHERE ARE WE NOW?
THE CHAMBER OF THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.
OUR LEADERS CONVENE HERE.
HE WON'T LISTEN TO US, VIGO.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE'LL MAKE HIM RECONSIDER.
IS THAT VIGO LIGHT?
I WOULD AVOID HIM IF I WERE YOU!


HE QUESTIONS MASTER SILAS TOO MUCH.
HE SEEDS SO MUCH DOUBT!
I THINK HE WILL EVENTUALLY SEE THINGS THE WAY SILAS DOES.
YOU ARE VERY OPEN-MINDED, MISS EMILY!
NO.
I'VE JUST SEEN SOME THINGS.
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER WOULD SAY.
MASTER SILAS--
EMILY IS HERE TO SEE YOU.


WELCOME, TRAVELER.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
TICK TOCK TICKT
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK T
.K TOCK TICK TOCK T
K TICK TOCK TICK TOC
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK T
ICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK T


TICKTOCKTICKTOCKTICKTOCK
TICKTOCKTICKTO
WHIRRR CLICK!
SZRAK!!


FWOOOM!!!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, EMILY?
WHY HAVE YOU DESTROYED MY OFFICE?


I WANTED TO SHOW YOU HOW THESE STONES ORIGINATED.
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN FOOL ME, IKOL?
STOP HIDING BEHIND THE MASKS.
FAIR ENOUGH.

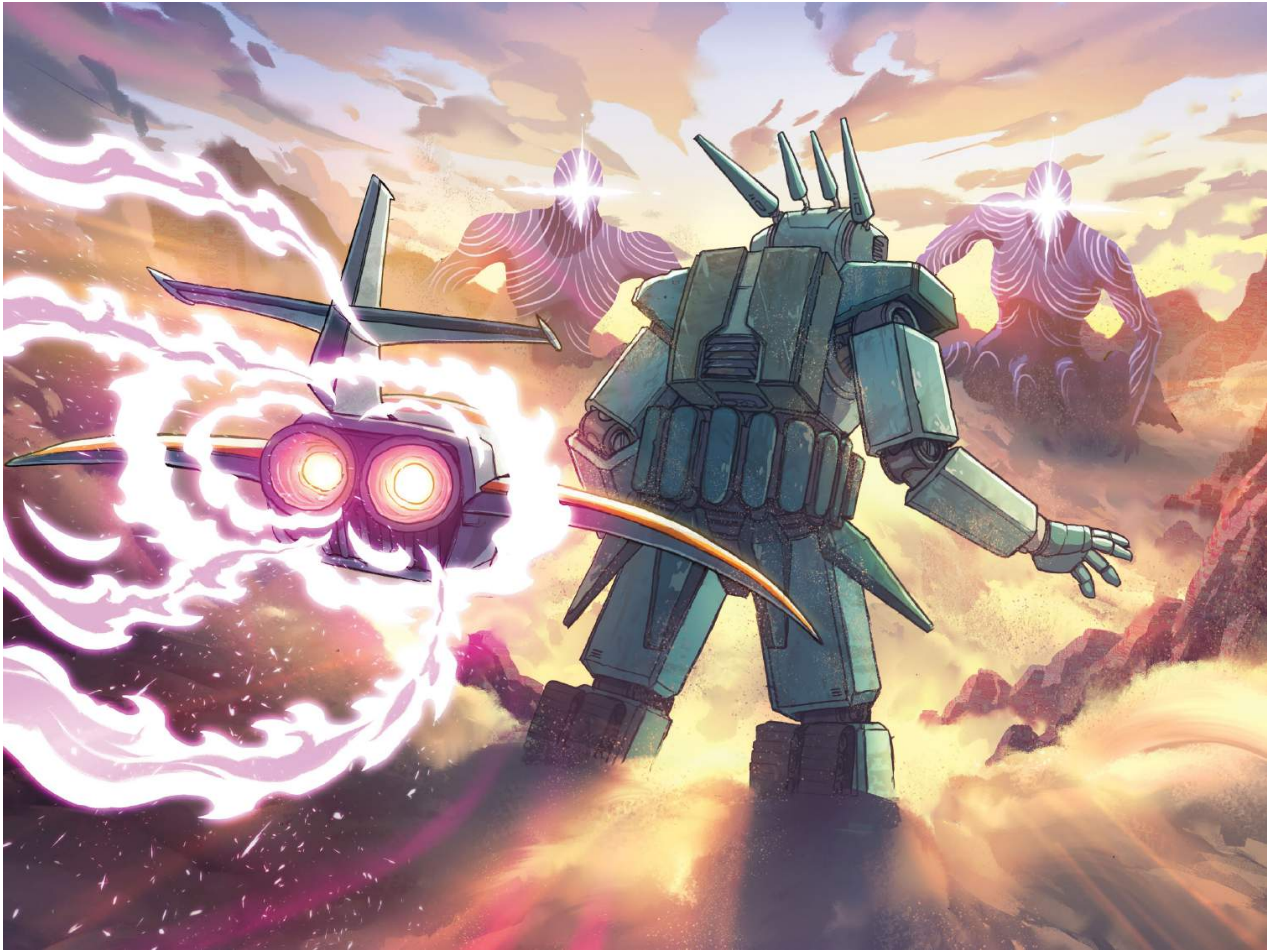

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, IKOL.
YOU WANT ME TO HATE MY FAMILY.
YOU THINK THAT I HATE SILAS.
BUT I DON'T HATE ANYONE.
NOT EVEN YOU.
I HAVE ONLY EVER WANTED TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.
EVERYTHING I HAVE DONE HAS BEEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL LIVING BEINGS.
NO.
YOU ACTED SELFISHLY.
YOU BELIEVE YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR OTHERS.
WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO HELP YOURSELF.

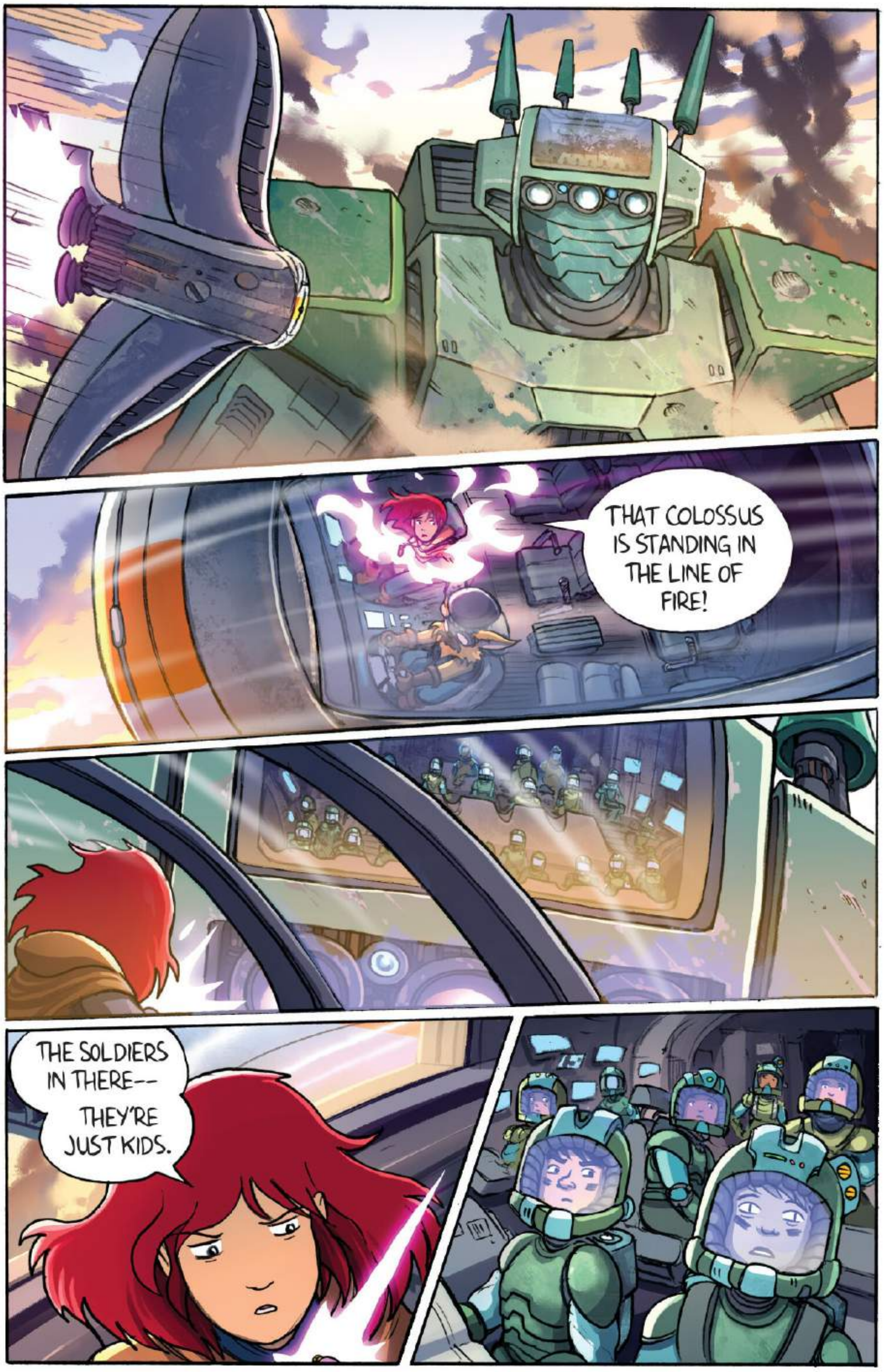

YOU SHOULD THANK ME.
WE CAN'T CHANGE OUR REALITY TO SUIT OUR DREAMS, IKOL.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE BELIEVE WE ARE RIGHT.
AND IF YOU WISH FOR OTHERS TO HELP YOU--
YOU MUST LEARN TO LET THEM GO.


ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT?
ARE YOU PREPARED TO LET GO?
LET ME GO, IKOL.
LET GO.


BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
HEY!


BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
YOU AWAKE YET?!
WE NEED POWER RIGHT AWAY!
SPAK!
SPAK!




THAT COLOSSUS IS STANDING IN THE LINE OF FIRE!
THE SOLDIERS IN THERE--
THEY'RE JUST KIDS.


VRRRRRRRN!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?!
THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET BLASTED!
SSSSSZZZZZRRAK!!!!
KBOOM


STABILIZING--
JUST BREATHE.
BREATHE.


KSHOOM!!
CHANGE OF PLANS.
TAKE US TO THE COLOSSUS AND LET'S SAVE SOME LIVES.
ALREADY ON IT.
HWEEEEEEE
~KSSH~


LOAD UP SOLDIERS AND USE FUEL FROM THE COLOSSUS TO FLY TO BASE.
DON'T WAIT FOR ME.
FSSHHHH-
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
I'LL FIND THEM ON MY OWN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
WAIT--
IF YOU NEED TO FIND ME, MY NAME IS DEAGLE SWIFT.
IF I NEED TO FIND YOU, WHO DO I ASK FOR?
EMILY HAYES.


GET EVERYONE ABOARD THE STINGRAY!
THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM FOR ALL OF YOU!
YES, MA'AM!
EVERYBODY GET ON THE SHIP!
FIND YOUR WAY OFF THE BATTLEFIELD!
LET'S GO!
LET'S GO!
GO! GO! GO!
IT'S NOT ATTACKING.
THE STONEKEEPER STILL RETAINS SOME CONTROL...


I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.
BUT I WILL TAKE YOU DOWN IF I HAVE TO.
LOOK AT THE DAMAGE THAT YOU'VE DONE--
AND THE HURT THAT YOU'VE CAUSED.
IS THIS WHO YOU WANT TO BE?
YOU COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO BE A BUILDER, LIKE THE STONEKEEPERS WHO CAME BEFORE YOU--
BUT YOU DECIDED TO BE A DESTROYER.



SHAAAAAA
FSH!!!
FSH!!!
FSH!!
VWOM!
THOOOM!!!
I WILL ABSORB YOUR HATE--
AND REDIRECT THIS ANGER INTO SOMETHING NEW.
THIS IS MY GIFT TO YOU.

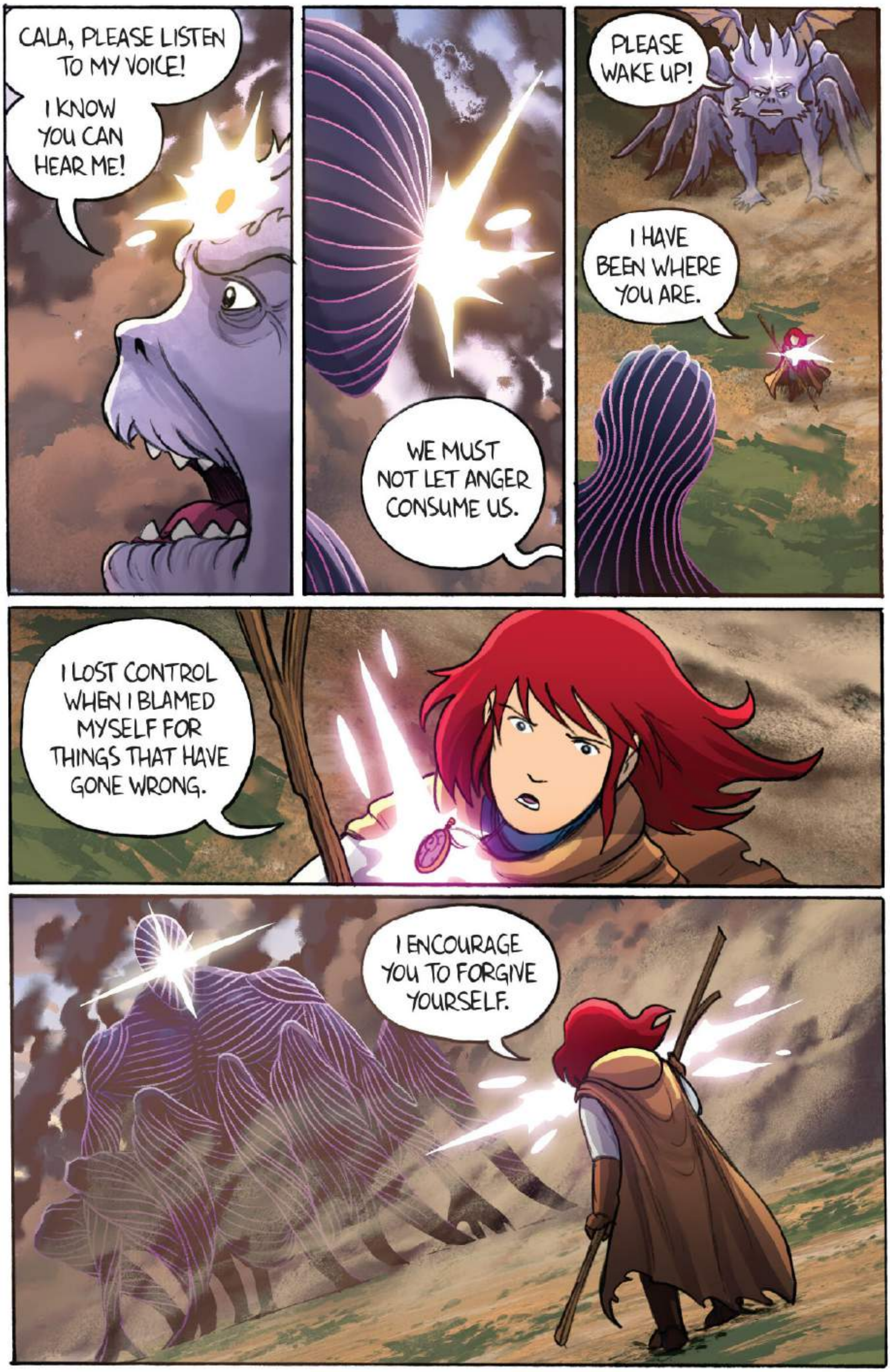

SZRAK!!!
BOOOM!!!
BDOOOM!!


KOOOM!!!




I HAVE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE NOW, SO I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME.
FIND YOUR CENTER, FIND BALANCE, AND BRING YOURSELF BACK.
COME BACK.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.
LEAVE THE ANGER BEHIND AND LOOK FOR THE LIGHT.
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.
FOLLOW MY VOICE AND JOIN ME OUT HERE.
COME BACK TO US.


HOW DID YOU DO IT?
I DIDN'T DO THIS. YOU DID.
I JUST GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO FIND YOURSELF.
HOW DO WE HELP MY BROTHER?
JUST SPEAK WITH HIM.


CALA, PLEASE LISTEN TO MY VOICE!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
WE MUST NOT LET ANGER CONSUME US.
PLEASE WAKE UP!
I HAVE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE.
I LOST CONTROL WHEN I BLAMED MYSELF FOR THINGS THAT HAVE GONE WRONG.
I ENCOURAGE YOU TO FORGIVE YOURSELF.


SPAK!!!
VRRRRRRRN
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE DOING THIS THE HARD WAY.
CALA, STOP!
SZRAK!!!
BOOM!!!


VWOM!!
VWOMMM!!
VWOM!!
VWOMM!!
FOOOSH!!!

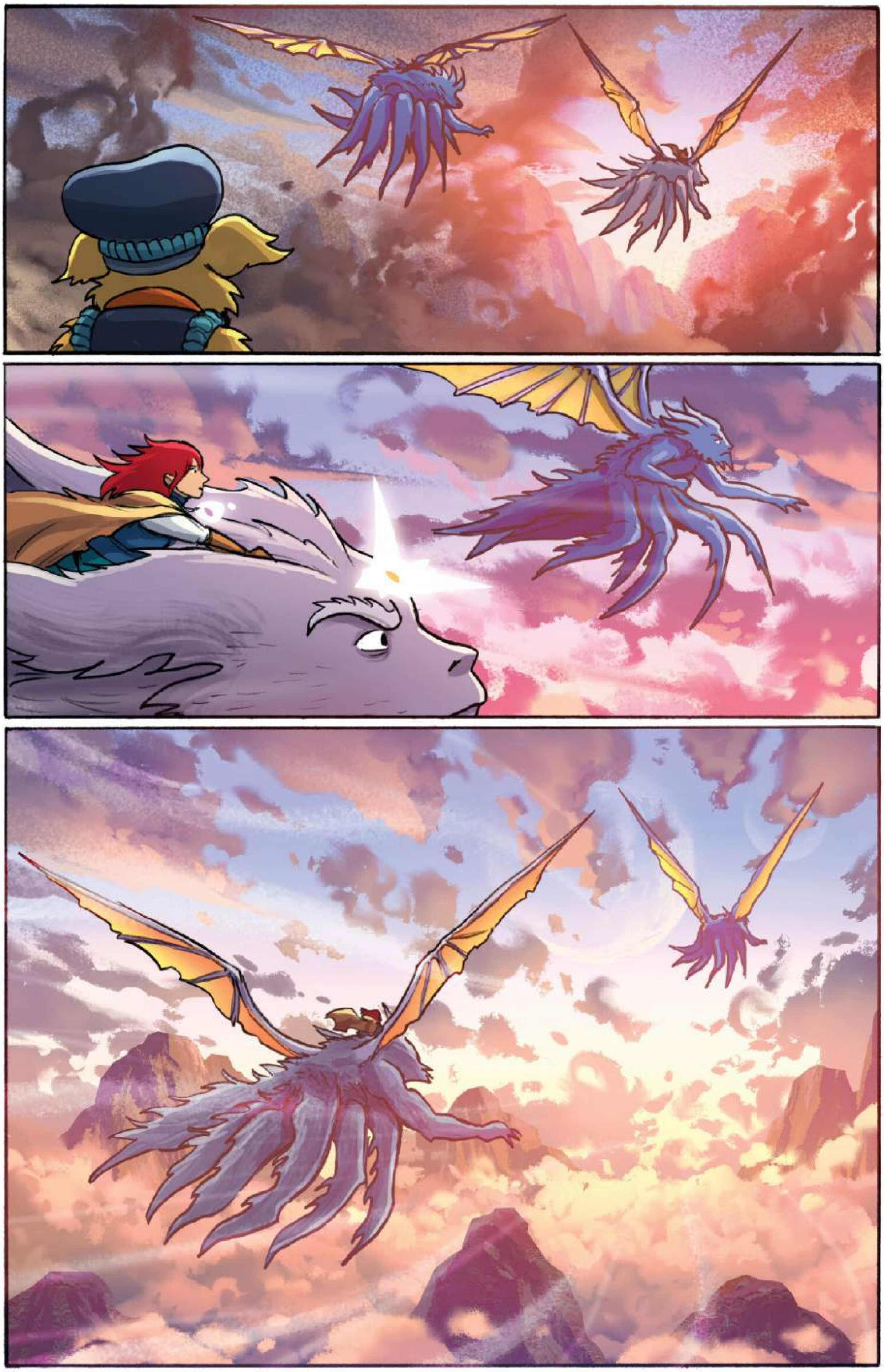

POOM!!
BKOOM!!


CALA?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
SHE HAS THE POWER OF THE GODS.
SIR!
WE'RE READY TO GO!
SIR?
I'LL BE ON THE SHIP IN A MOMENT!


CALA?
CALA, WAKE UP!
CORA--
WHAT HAPPENED?
WE LOST OUR WAY.
BUT ANOTHER STONEKEEPER HAS BROUGHT US BACK.
STONEKEEPER?
YOU MEAN THIS LITTLE ONE?


NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, I NEED TO ASK YOU BOTH FOR A FAVOR.
HELP ME FIND MY FAMILY SO THAT I MAY GO HOME.
WE WILL GLADLY HELP YOU.
THIS JOURNEY MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN YOU THINK.
WE ARE READY FOR IT.
EMILY HAYES!!!
I SAW THE WHOLE THING!
I WILL TELL OTHERS ABOUT WHAT YOU DID HERE!
THAT ISN'T NECESSARY, DEAGLE.
JUST HELP THE SOLDIERS GET HOME.


I WASN'T GOING TO DO IT FOR YOU, BUT FOR EVERYONE ELSE.
WHAT I SAW HERE COULD GIVE THEM HOPE!
AS YOU WISH.
I HOPE OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.
WHOOSH!




SPLOOSH!!
WHAT'S OUT HERE, VIGO?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN OLD FRIEND.


LOCAL VILLAGERS HAVE SUGGESTED WE WILL FIND HER AT THIS ROCK QUARRY.
THEY ARE AFRAID TO SPEAK WITH HER.
WHY ARE THEY AFRAID?
THEY BELIEVE SHE IS A GHOST.
IS SHE A GHOST?
KSH!
DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK.
EITHER WAY, SHE IS DEFINITELY A STONEKEEPER.
SHE IS ONE OF THE VERY BEST.
KSH!
THIS QUARRY WAS ABANDONED BY THE LOCALS AFTER THE STONEKEEPER MOVED IN.
THEY HAVE MOSTLY LEFT HER ALONE AT HER REQUEST.


HELLO?
VIGO,
WHY A ROCK QUARRY?
IF I HAD TO GUESS--
MATERIALS.
SHE'S LOOKING FOR MATERIALS SHE CAN USE TO BUILD.
TRELLIS-- WHY NOT JUST USE YOUR POWERS AS KING TO HAVE THE ARMY RECONSTRUCT THE CITIES?
I'M NOT THE KING.
IF YOU ARE NO LONGER THE KING, WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO BE?
I'M JUST GOING TO BE ME.
WHATEVER THAT MEANS.


FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
I THOUGHT YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
SHH.
HOLD STILL.
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE, VIGO.
I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
WE'RE ON A MISSION OF PEACE.
WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU AFTER ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT.
I CAME TO SPEAK WITH A FRIEND.
I NEED YOUR HELP, RONIN.
MY HELP?


WE ARE ON A MISSION TO REBUILD ALLEDIA,
AND YOU ARE THE BEST BUILDER I KNOW.
SO WHY DID YOU NOT DEFEND ME WHEN THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO FORCE ME OUT?
EXILED FOR TELLING THE TRUTH.
WHEN I QUESTIONED THE COUNCIL, THEY PUT ALL THEIR FAITH IN MAX, AND LOOK WHERE IT GOT THEM.
YOU AGREED WITH THEM. YOU WERE ON THEIR SIDE.
ONE OF MY BIGGEST MISTAKES, AND FOR THAT, I AM SORRY.
I'M DETERMINED NOT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.
I WAS ASKED TO LEAD A NEW GUARDIAN COUNCIL, BUT MY TIME HAS PASSED.
I KNOW IT HAS TO BE LED BY YOU.


WILL YOU DO THIS?
VIGO--
I ALREADY STARTED.
I HAD A FEELING.
HOW MANY?
FOUR.
FIVE IF YOU INCLUDE ME.
I ASSUMED EVERYTHING WOULD EVENTUALLY FALL APART ON ITS OWN.
SO WE TRAINED FOR WHEN ALLEDIA WOULD NEED US.
I GUESS THAT TIME IS NOW.
WHO ARE YOUR NEW STUDENTS?
THEY ARE NOT STUDENTS.
THIS IS TRELLIS.
PRINCE OF THE ELVES?
WHY WOULD YOU BRING HIM HERE?
HE RENOUNCED THE THRONE, SO HE IS NO LONGER THE PRINCE.
HE HAS BECOME AN ALLY AND A FRIEND.


YOU WALKED AWAY FROM THE THRONE?
THAT WAS YOUR CHOICE?
YES.
MY FAMILY WAS TORN APART BY THE POWER OF THE CROWN.
I HAVE DECIDED TO LIVE MY LIFE DIFFERENTLY.
IF YOU NEED ME TO BUILD, I'LL BUILD.
GOOD FOR YOU, KID.
WHO'S THE OTHER ELF?
MY NAME IS RIVA ASH, AND THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE BALAN.
I AM THE MAYOR OF LUCIEN, SISTER CITY OF CIELIS.
THAT PUTS ME IN CHARGE OF THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL UNTIL ORDER IS RESTORED.
WITH THIS AUTHORITY, I GRANT YOU THE POWER TO LEAD THE COUNCIL.
I WILL ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN.

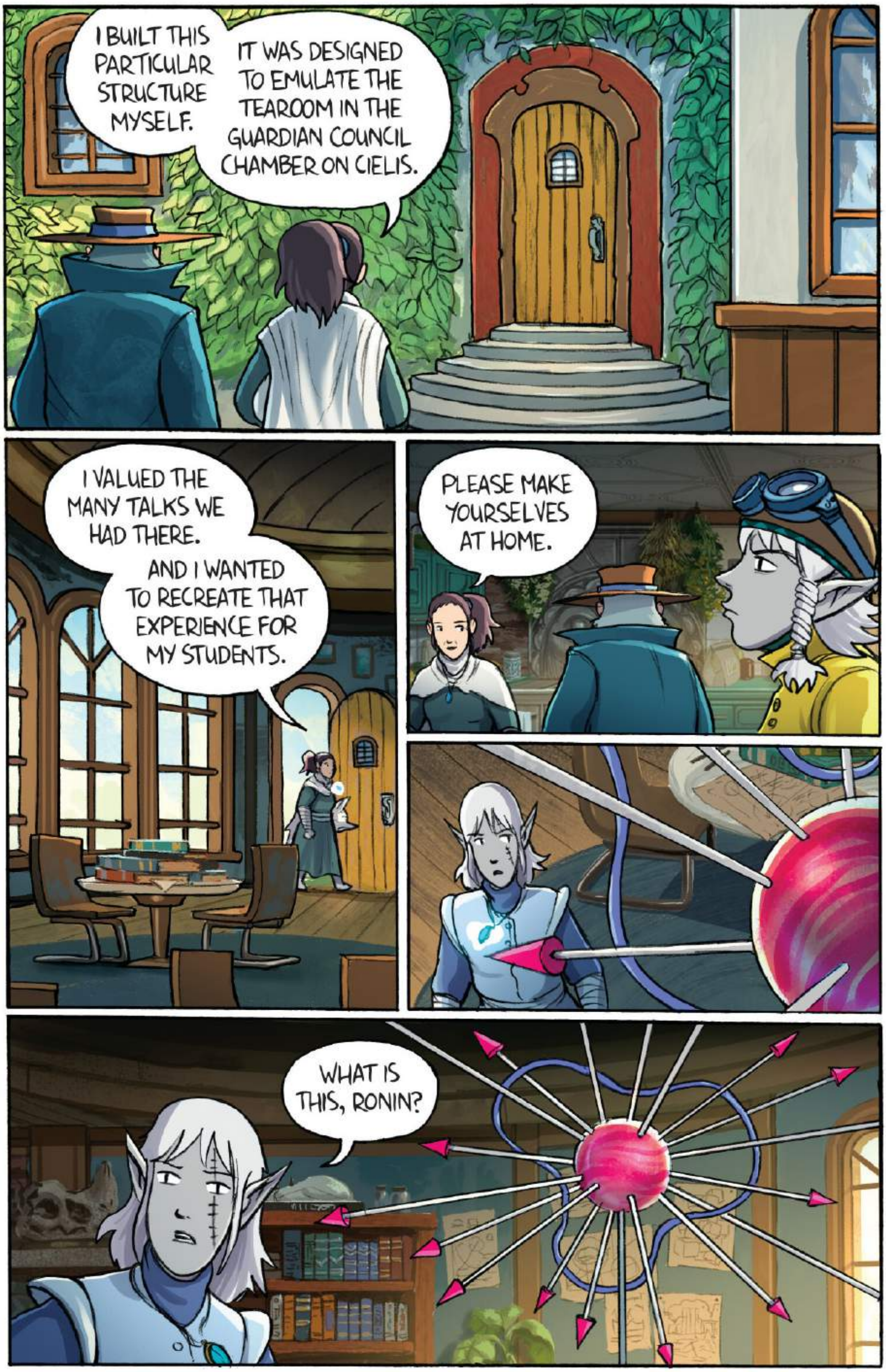

YOU DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANYONE ELSE OUT THERE, DO YOU, VIGO?
I'M AFRAID WE ARE ON OUR OWN.
I HAVE HEARD YOU SAY THOSE WORDS COUNTLESS TIMES.
AND I NEVER BELIEVED THEM TO BE TRUE.
BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS FORGET ABOUT THE NEW KIDS.
VWOMM

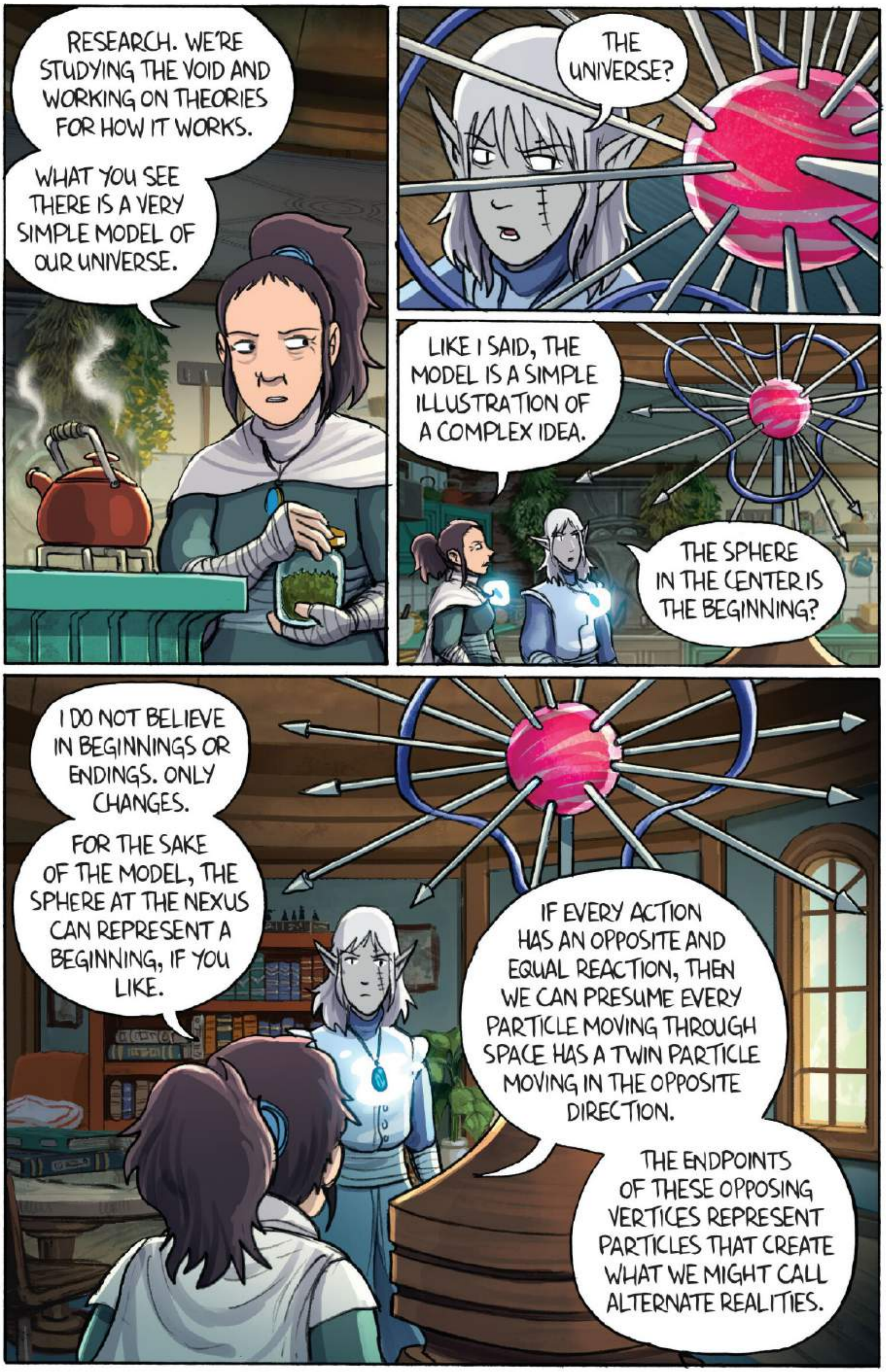

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IT'S OUR TRAINING GROUND.
WE NEED YOUNG MINDS WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO BUILD.
SO WE PRACTICE HERE IN THE QUARRY.


I'M GOING TO GUESS THAT YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU RECALL WHAT I USED TO TELL YOU.
THAT POWERS WERE GRANTED TO US AS A MEANS TO BUILD.
MEANWHILE, THE COUNCIL REMAINED FOCUSED ON USING THE POWER TO CONTROL OTHERS.
THEN PUSHED US DOWN THE PATH TO WAR.
AS WAS OFTEN THE CASE, YOU WERE AHEAD OF THE CURVE.
WERE?
I STILL AM.
ONCE YOU'VE CAUGHT UP, YOU CAN THANK ME.
IT WILL TAKE YEARS FOR OTHERS TO PROCESS WHAT WE'VE DONE.
WITH EVERYONE FIGHTING OVER THE KEYS TO THE PAST, I FIGURED SOMEBODY HAD TO THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE.

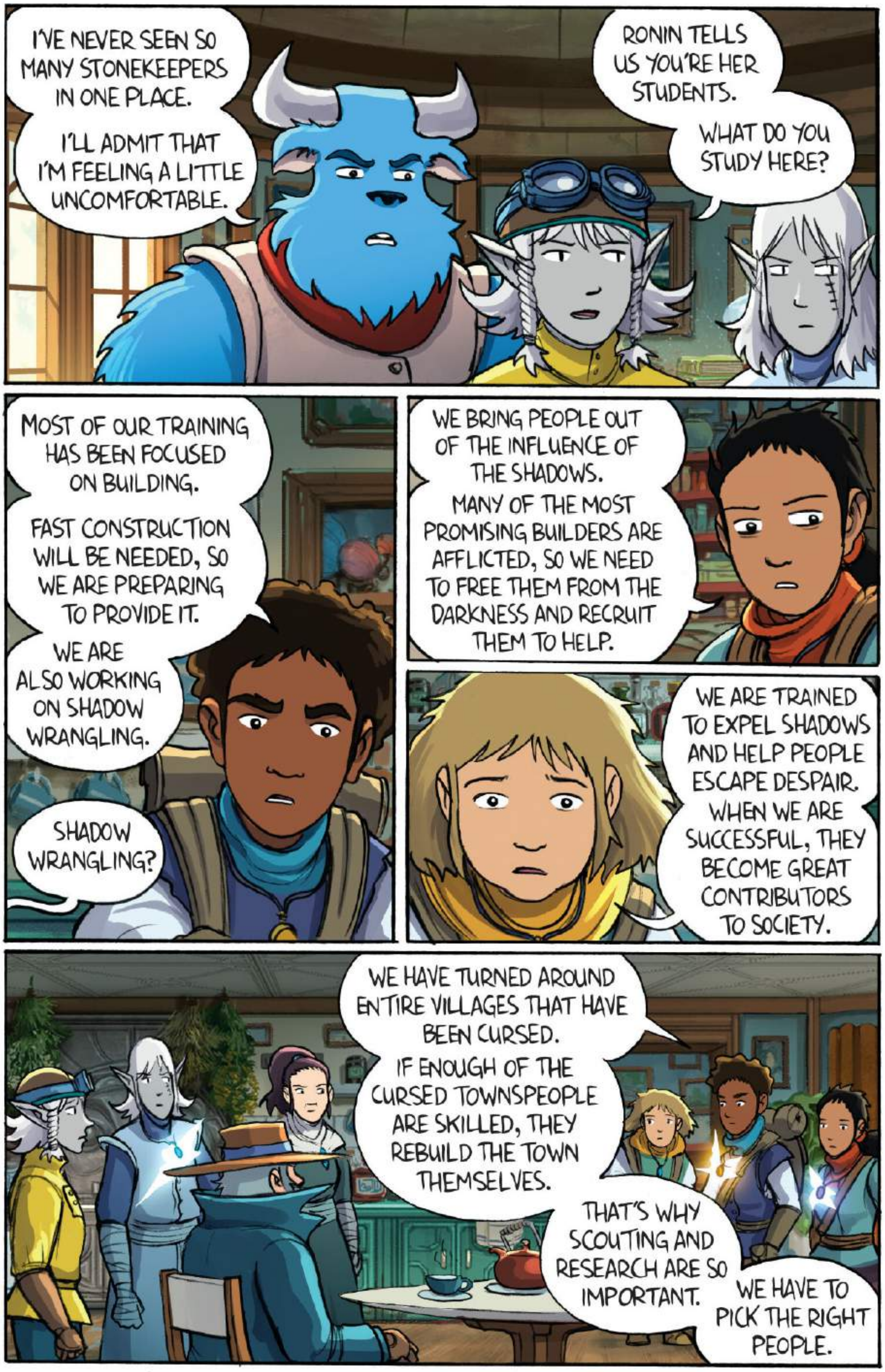

LISTEN UP, TEAM!
WE'VE GOT GUESTS!
GUESTS?
I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BRING ANYONE HERE!
YOU SAID IT WOULD DISTURB OUR TRAINING!
TRAINING IS OVER.
WAIT, REALLY?
THESE PEOPLE ARE ASKING ME TO HELP THEM REBUILD CIELIS.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
IT MEANS WE'RE THE NEW GUARDIAN COUNCIL.
JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAID WOULD HAPPEN.


TELL THE OTHERS TO PACK ONLY WHAT THEY CAN CARRY.
MEET US IN THE TEAROOM WHEN YOU ARE READY.
WILL DO.
GUARDIANS, WELCOME TO THE QUARRY.
WHERE DID YOU FIND THESE STONEKEEPERS?
THAT YOUNG STONEKEEPER IS BREN. HE'S A LEADER.
YOU'LL LIKE HIM, VIGO.
WHEN KIDS HAVE ABILITIES LIKE THEY DO, IT'S HARD FOR PEOPLE NOT TO NOTICE.
I JUST FOLLOWED THE TALK ABOUT STRANGE KIDS WITH POWERS TO SEE IF THEY WERE REFERRING TO STONEKEEPERS.
THIS LED ME TO THESE FOUR STUDENTS.
I OFFERED THEM A PLACE TO TRAIN, AWAY FROM OUTSIDE PRESSURE.
THEY ACCEPTED.
THIS BUILDING LOOKS FAMILIAR.
IT SHOULD.

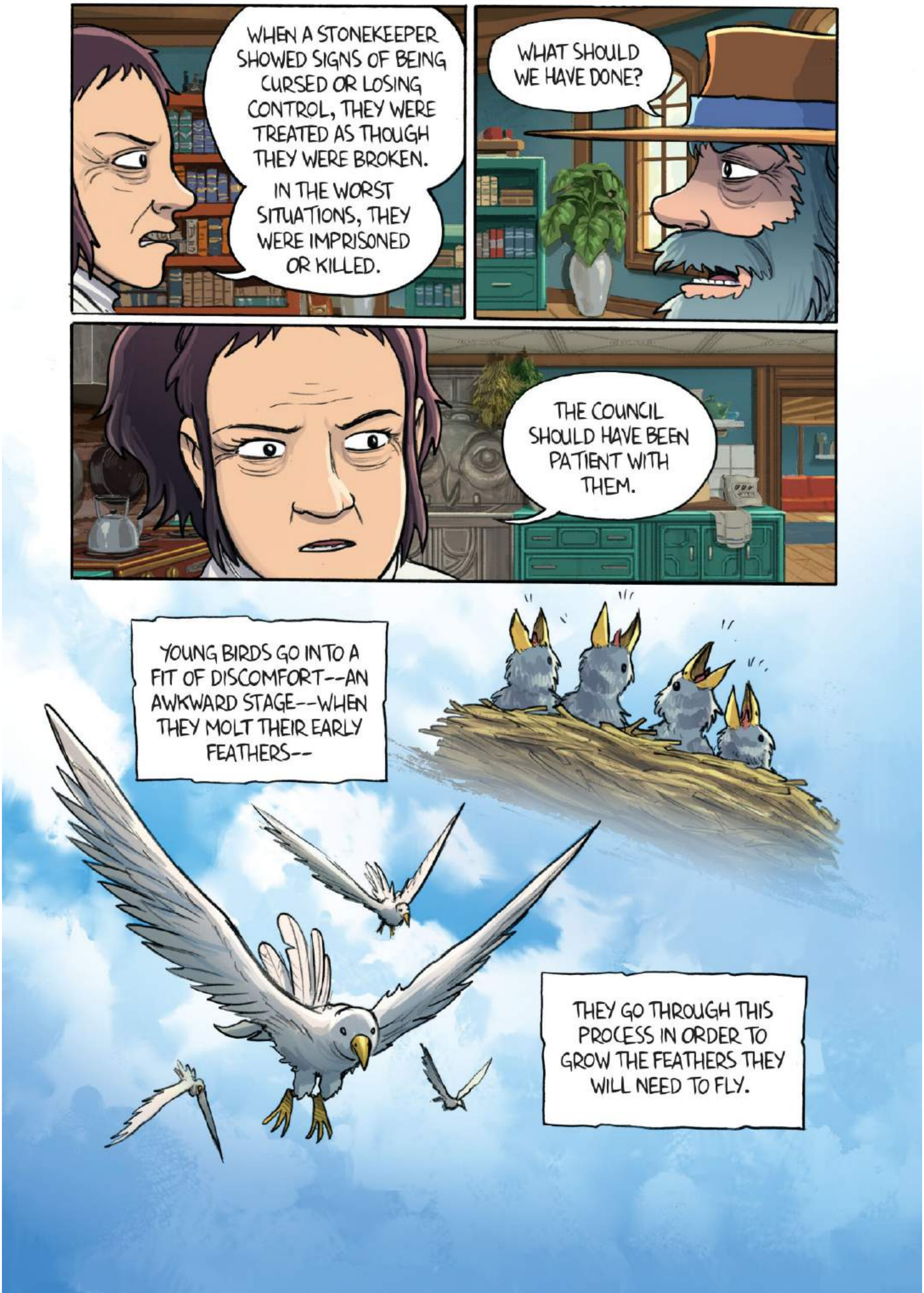

I BUILT THIS PARTICULAR STRUCTURE MYSELF.
IT WAS DESIGNED TO EMULATE THE TEAROOM IN THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBER ON CIELIS.
I VALUED THE MANY TALKS WE HAD THERE.
AND I WANTED TO RECREATE THAT EXPERIENCE FOR MY STUDENTS.
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
WHAT IS THIS, RONIN?

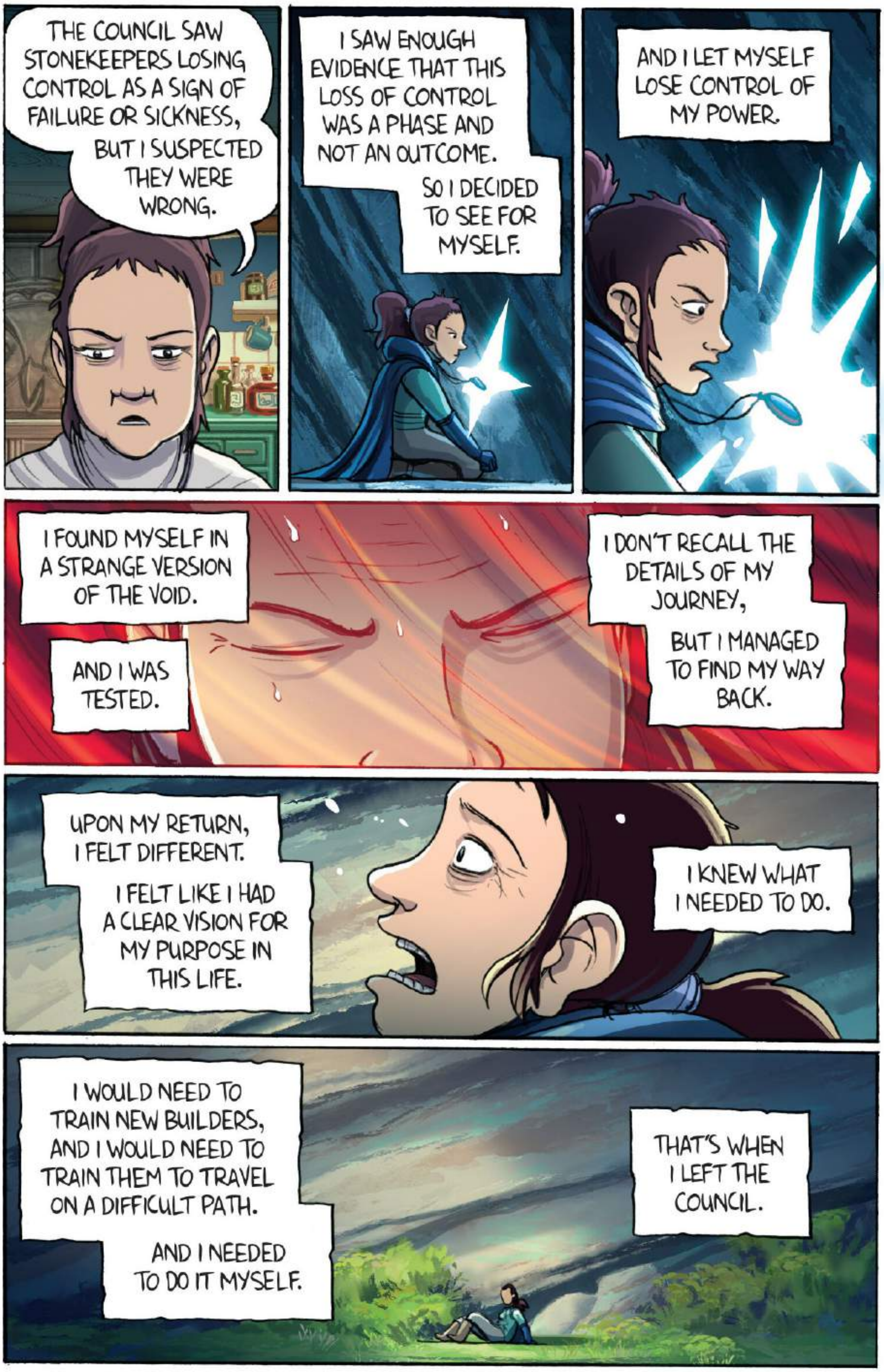

RESEARCH. WE'RE STUDYING THE VOID AND WORKING ON THEORIES FOR HOW IT WORKS.
WHAT YOU SEE THERE IS A VERY SIMPLE MODEL OF OUR UNIVERSE.
THE UNIVERSE?
LIKE I SAID, THE MODEL IS A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION OF A COMPLEX IDEA.
THE SPHERE IN THE CENTER IS THE BEGINNING?
I DO NOT BELIEVE IN BEGINNINGS OR ENDINGS. ONLY CHANGES.
FOR THE SAKE OF THE MODEL, THE SPHERE AT THE NEXUS CAN REPRESENT A BEGINNING, IF YOU LIKE.
IF EVERY ACTION HAS AN OPPOSITE AND EQUAL REACTION, THEN WE CAN PRESUME EVERY PARTICLE MOVING THROUGH SPACE HAS A TWIN PARTICLE MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
THE ENDPOINTS OF THESE OPPOSING VERTICES REPRESENT PARTICLES THAT CREATE WHAT WE MIGHT CALL ALTERNATE REALITIES.


THE BLUE WIRE REPRESENTS US, THE STONEKEEPERS.
WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOTHER STONE AND THE AMULETS CARVED FROM IT ALLOW US TO TRAVEL ACROSS AND BETWEEN ALTERNATE REALITIES.
WE CAN ESSENTIALLY SURF THE WAVES OF THESE REALITIES BY WAY OF THE VOID.
YOU BELIEVE THE VOID IS MORE THAN A PLACE FOR DREAMS AND MEMORIES?
A KIND OF ROAD BETWEEN ALTERNATE REALITIES?
LIKE I SAID, THIS IS ALL RESEARCH.
WE ONLY HAVE THESE SIMPLIFIED MODELS TO HELP US UNDERSTAND.
I HONESTLY DON'T THINK OUR MINDS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE VOID WORKS.
THEN YOU OLD FOLKS CAN GIVE IT A REST--
SINCE IT'S OUR TURN TO TRY AND FIGURE THINGS OUT.
HEY, IF YOU WANT RESPECT, BE RESPECTFUL.


I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY STONEKEEPERS IN ONE PLACE.
I'LL ADMIT THAT I'M FEELING A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
RONIN TELLS US YOU'RE HER STUDENTS.
WHAT DO YOU STUDY HERE?
MOST OF OUR TRAINING HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON BUILDING.
FAST CONSTRUCTION WILL BE NEEDED, SO WE ARE PREPARING TO PROVIDE IT.
WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON SHADOW WRANGLING.
SHADOW WRANGLING?
WE BRING PEOPLE OUT OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE SHADOWS.
MANY OF THE MOST PROMISING BUILDERS ARE AFFLICTED, SO WE NEED TO FREE THEM FROM THE DARKNESS AND RECRUIT THEM TO HELP.
WE ARE TRAINED TO EXPEL SHADOWS AND HELP PEOPLE ESCAPE DESPAIR.
WHEN WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, THEY BECOME GREAT CONTRIBUTORS TO SOCIETY.
WE HAVE TURNED AROUND ENTIRE VILLAGES THAT HAVE BEEN CURSED.
IF ENOUGH OF THE CURSED TOWNSPEOPLE ARE SKILLED, THEY REBUILD THE TOWN THEMSELVES.
THAT'S WHY SCOUTING AND RESEARCH ARE SO IMPORTANT.
WE HAVE TO PICK THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

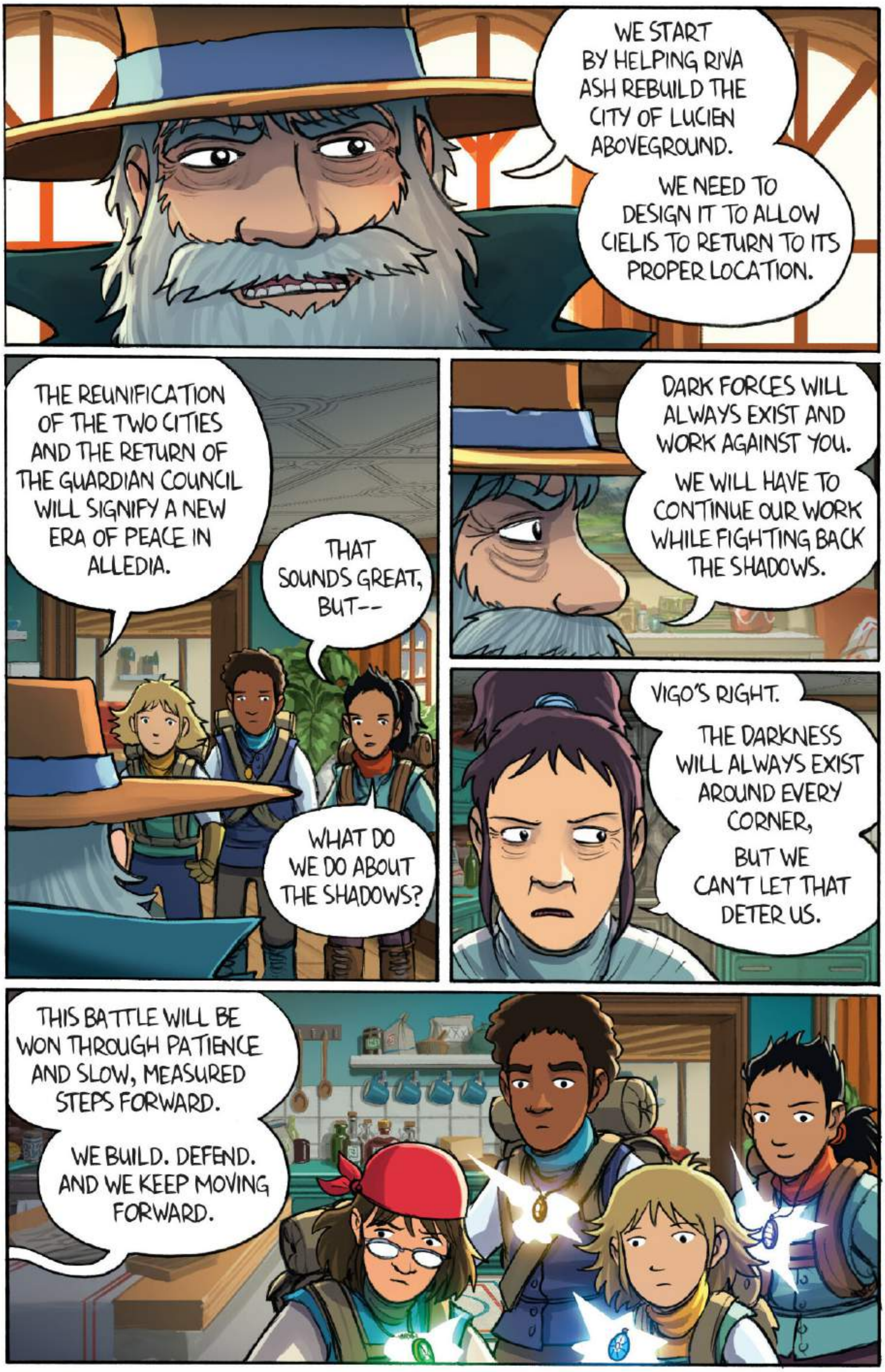

I HAVE BEEN A STONEKEEPER FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS, AND I HAVE NEVER ATTEMPTED TO BREAK A SHADOW'S CURSE.
WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS POSSIBLE.
NOT UNTIL RONIN SHOWED US HOW TO DO IT.
VIGO--
DON'T YOU REMEMBER OUR TALKS?
YES.
YES, I DO.
I REMEMBER CLEARLY.
YOU AGREED WITH THE COUNCIL THAT A CURSED INDIVIDUAL--ESPECIALLY CURSED STONEKEEPERS--COULD NOT BE CURED.
I SAID THAT I BELIEVED THEY COULD CURE THEMSELVES--
AND I WAS OSTRACIZED FOR SAYING THIS. YOU DIDN'T DEFEND ME OR GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PROVE IT.


WHEN A STONEKEEPER SHOWED SIGNS OF BEING CURSED OR LOSING CONTROL, THEY WERE TREATED AS THOUGH THEY WERE BROKEN.
IN THE WORST SITUATIONS, THEY WERE IMPRISONED OR KILLED.
WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE DONE?
THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE BEEN PATIENT WITH THEM.
YOUNG BIRDS GO INTO A FIT OF DISCOMFORT--AN AWKWARD STAGE--WHEN THEY MOLT THEIR EARLY FEATHERS--
THEY GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS IN ORDER TO GROW THE FEATHERS THEY WILL NEED TO FLY.


THE COUNCIL SAW STONEKEEPERS LOSING CONTROL AS A SIGN OF FAILURE OR SICKNESS,
BUT I SUSPECTED THEY WERE WRONG.
I SAW ENOUGH EVIDENCE THAT THIS LOSS OF CONTROL WAS A PHASE AND NOT AN OUTCOME.
SO I DECIDED TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
AND I LET MYSELF LOSE CONTROL OF MY POWER.
I FOUND MYSELF IN A STRANGE VERSION OF THE VOID.
AND I WAS TESTED.
I DON'T RECALL THE DETAILS OF MY JOURNEY,
BUT I MANAGED TO FIND MY WAY BACK.
UPON MY RETURN, I FELT DIFFERENT.
I FELT LIKE I HAD A CLEAR VISION FOR MY PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE.
I KNEW WHAT I NEEDED TO DO.
I WOULD NEED TO TRAIN NEW BUILDERS, AND I WOULD NEED TO TRAIN THEM TO TRAVEL ON A DIFFICULT PATH.
AND I NEEDED TO DO IT MYSELF.
THAT'S WHEN I LEFT THE COUNCIL.


I SET UP THIS BASE HERE IN THE ROCK QUARRY IN ORDER TO PROTECT NOT JUST THE STONEKEEPERS, BUT THE PROCESS THAT ALLOWS THEM TO GROW.
EACH OF THESE STUDENTS LOST CONTROL OF THEIR POWERS AT ONE POINT, AND WE WERE HERE TO HELP THEM THROUGH IT.
WE'VE HAD SOME EPIC FIGHTS IN HERE.
MY NAME IS WEST. WHEN I LOSE CONTROL, I TURN INTO A WYVERN.
DON'T REMIND US.
YOU WERE A REAL PAIN TO WRANGLE BACK TO A NATURAL STATE.
MY NAME IS LIA.
I TRANSFORMED INTO A SEA SERPENT AND TERRORIZED A FISHING VILLAGE BEFORE COMING BACK TO MY SENSES.
MY NAME IS JANIS AND MY GIANT FORM IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE.
I SUPPOSE IT IS--
IT'S TERRIFYING.

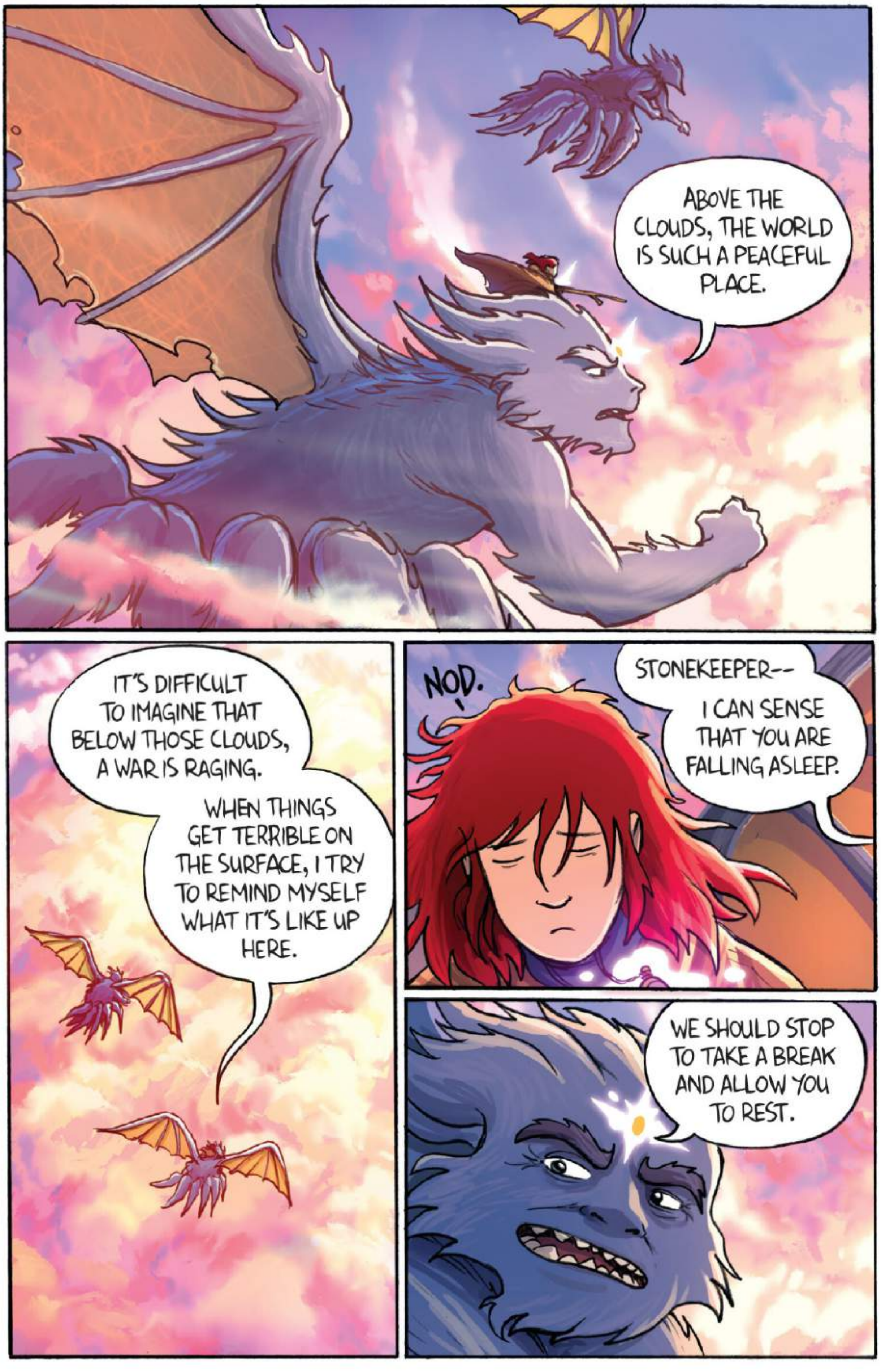

JANIS TURNS INTO A KIND OF MONSTER INSECT.
I SUGGEST NOT GETTING ON HER BAD SIDE.
MY NAME IS BREN, AND MY FORM IS PROBABLY THE SILLIEST ONE.
SILLIEST?
BREN TURNS INTO A GIANT TURTLE.
IT'S ACTUALLY VERY CUTE.
HEY, IT CAN BE SCARY!
IN AN ADORABLE WAY,
YES.
WELL, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, YOU HAVE ALL SHOWN TREMENDOUS COURAGE.
I NEVER ALLOWED MYSELF TO LET GO OF CONTROL.
EVERYTHING WE'VE TRAINED TO DO, WE'VE LEARNED FROM RONIN.
AND NOW IT IS TIME TO PUT ALL OUR THEORIES INTO PRACTICE.
WE ARE GOING TO BE THROWN INTO THE FIRE WITHOUT MUCH TIME TO GAIN FAMILIARITY WITH OUR SURROUNDINGS.
VIGO--
WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

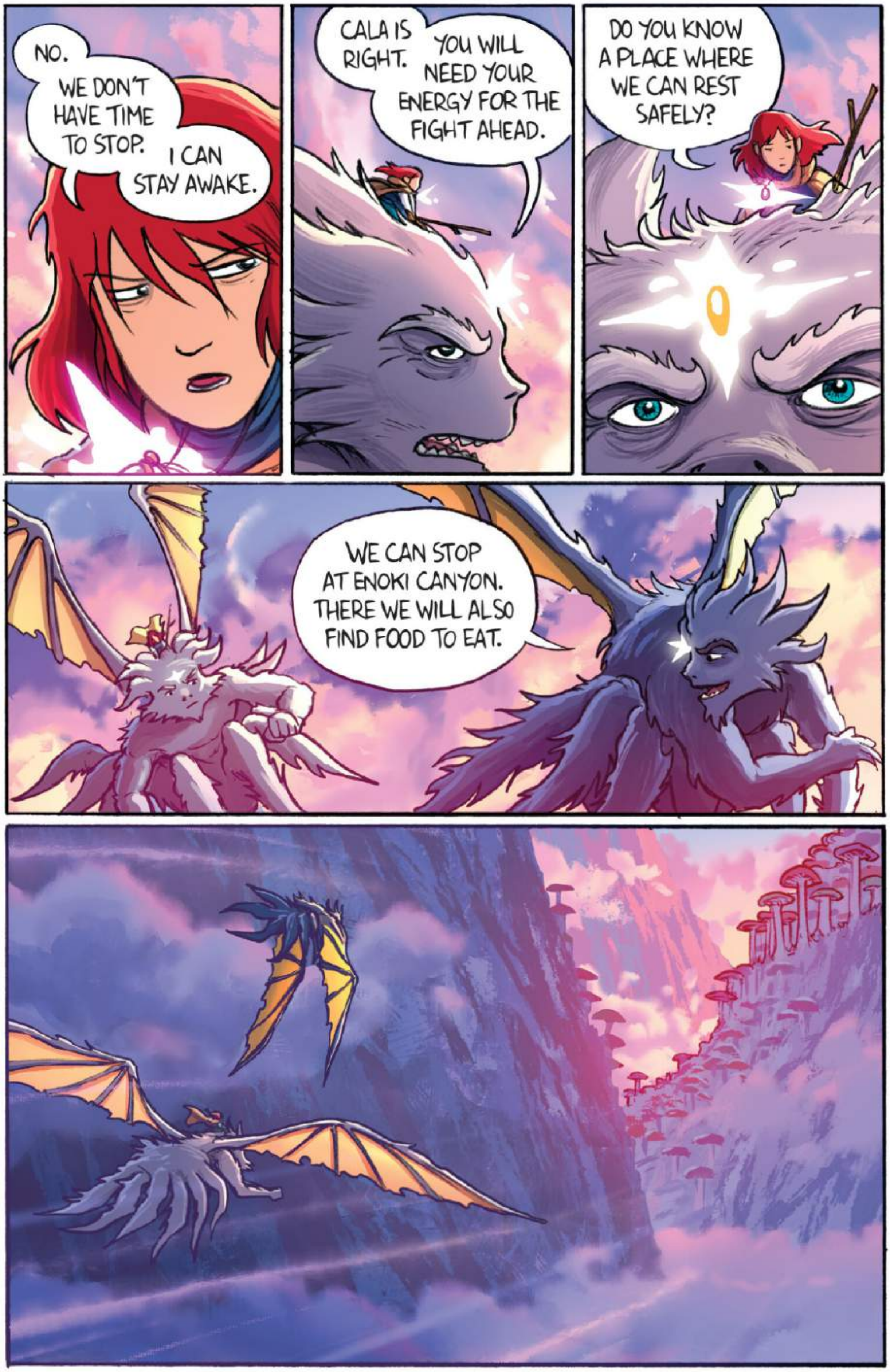

WE START BY HELPING RIVA ASH REBUILD THE CITY OF LUCIEN ABOVEGROUND.
WE NEED TO DESIGN IT TO ALLOW CIELIS TO RETURN TO ITS PROPER LOCATION.
THE REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO CITIES AND THE RETURN OF THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL WILL SIGNIFY A NEW ERA OF PEACE IN ALLEDIA.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT--
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE SHADOWS?
DARK FORCES WILL ALWAYS EXIST AND WORK AGAINST YOU.
WE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR WORK WHILE FIGHTING BACK THE SHADOWS.
VIGO'S RIGHT.
THE DARKNESS WILL ALWAYS EXIST AROUND EVERY CORNER,
BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT DETER US.
THIS BATTLE WILL BE WON THROUGH PATIENCE AND SLOW, MEASURED STEPS FORWARD.
WE BUILD. DEFEND. AND WE KEEP MOVING FORWARD.


SOUNDS GOOD.
LET'S JUST GET THIS THING STARTED.
WHAT'S WRONG, TRELLIS?
I JUST WISH I HAD IT TOGETHER LIKE THESE KIDS.
I FEEL LIKE I LOST SO MUCH TIME.
DON'T WORRY.
JUST MAKE SURE TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES FROM NOW ON.
LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN LEARN--
AND TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU CAN FOR THE NEXT TIME AROUND.
NEXT TIME?
WE'LL BE OUTSIDE.


SEEING YOU TEACH AND LEAD IS IMPRESSIVE.
AND NOT AT ALL SURPRISING.
MUCH OF THIS COMES FROM WHAT I LEARNED FROM YOU, VIGO.
LIKE YOU, I'M NOT AGAINST LOOKING UP TO THOSE WHO ARE YOUNGER THAN I AM.
I WISH I HAD FOLLOWED THAT ADVICE AS WELL AS YOU HAVE.
THESE KIDS DIDN'T NEED TO MAKE THE MISTAKES VIGO AND I DID TO LEARN WHAT THEY KNOW.
THEY ARE JUST QUICKER TO TRUST THEIR INSTINCTS.
THEY ARE QUICKER TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES.
YOU THINK WE CAN TEACH IT?
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME WORK.


JUST REMEMBER THAT IT WAS RONIN WHO TAUGHT HERSELF ALL OF THIS, AND SHE IS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT THESE KIDS.
IT WASN'T VIGO, HER TEACHER, OR ANYONE ELSE.
WE ARE SO CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER WE ARE DOING ENOUGH--
WHEN ALL THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED IS THAT WE STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY.


ABOVE THE CLOUDS, THE WORLD IS SUCH A PEACEFUL PLACE.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT BELOW THOSE CLOUDS, A WAR IS RAGING.
WHEN THINGS GET TERRIBLE ON THE SURFACE, I TRY TO REMIND MYSELF WHAT IT'S LIKE UP HERE.
NOD.
STONEKEEPER--
I CAN SENSE THAT YOU ARE FALLING ASLEEP.
WE SHOULD STOP TO TAKE A BREAK AND ALLOW YOU TO REST.


NO.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP.
I CAN STAY AWAKE.
CALA IS RIGHT.
YOU WILL NEED YOUR ENERGY FOR THE FIGHT AHEAD.
DO YOU KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE CAN REST SAFELY?
WE CAN STOP AT ENOKI CANYON. THERE WE WILL ALSO FIND FOOD TO EAT.




REST HERE AND WE WILL FIND YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME, CALA.
AFTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US, WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT.
REST EASY, EMILY.
WE WILL STAND WATCH.


CALA?
CORA?
YOUR FRIENDS CANNOT HEAR YOU.
IKOL.


IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO CHOOSE A PATH.
YOU SPEAK AS IF YOU ARE IN CONTROL.
YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER ME, IKOL.
YOU ARE RIGHT.
BUT WE ARE BOTH SERVANTS OF MY MASTERS.


WHO ARE THESE MASTERS YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT?
THEY EXIST AROUND US BUT ARE NOT SEEN.
YOUR KIND ARE NOT READY TO KNOW THEM.
MY KIND?
YOU MEAN HUMANS?
AMONG OTHERS.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
AM I READY TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE?
I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO CONTACT THEM.
YES.
SHOW ME.



MY MASTERS DO NOT COMMUNICATE WITH JUST ANYONE.
THEY ARE SELECTIVE.
AND THEY HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOU.
THEY KNOW WHO I AM?
THEY HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOUR JOURNEY CLOSELY.
WHAT DO THEY WANT?
THEY NEED YOUR HELP.


THEIR HOME PLANET IS LOCATED IN A NEARBY GALAXY AND IT IS DYING.
THEY ARE HERE TO SEE IF OTHER LIFE-FORMS CAN SUCCEED WHERE THEY HAVE FAILED.
WHAT HAPPENED THERE?
THEIR HABITAT IS COMPROMISED AND THEY WANT TO REVERSE COURSE.
THEY ARE HOPING SOMEONE HERE CAN HELP THEM FIND A SOLUTION.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
THEY ARE RIGHT HERE IN THIS ROOM.
THEY EXIST ON A PARALLEL TIMELINE THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BY THE POWER OF THE STONE.
YOUR POWERS CAN GENERATE WAVES OF ENERGY THAT YOU MAY USE TO SHINE A LIGHT ON THIS HIDDEN WORLD.
IT WILL SIMPLY REQUIRE FINDING THE RIGHT WAVELENGTH AND INFUSING IT WITH ENERGY.


HOW CAN I BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY?
WHAT DO I HAVE TO GAIN IF WHAT I SAY ISN'T TRUE?
USE THE LIGHT FROM YOUR STONE AND STAFF, AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.
USE YOUR POWER TO LIGHT YOUR PATH.
PINNG!!


PINNG!!
PINNG!!
PIN
PINNG
GPINNNG! PINN
THESE SHADOWS--
ARE YOUR MASTERS STANDING IN FRONT OF ME?
PINGPINGPING PINGPING


PING!!
ARE THEY--
MACHINES?
IKOL--
ARE YOU A PROGRAM?
YES.
THAT IS CORRECT.
I HAVE TAKEN MY NAME FROM THE PLACE I WAS BORN.
THE INTELLIGENT KINEMATIC OPERATIONS LABORATORY. ALSO KNOWN AS IKOL.
YOU AND THE MASTERS ARE NOT FROM TYPHON, ARE YOU?
NO.
WE ARE NOT.
WE ARE LIKE YOU--


PINNNGG!!
PINNGG!!
WE ARE FROM EARTH.
WERE YOU CREATED BY SILAS CHARNON?
YES.
PINNNNNNGGG...


YOU HAVE TOLD ME REPEATEDLY TO FIND MY FAMILY--
BUT THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO A FAMILY--
IS YOU.
THE PLANET THEY NEED HELP WITH--
IT'S EARTH, ISN'T IT?
YES.
YOU HAVE BEEN ON A LONG JOURNEY TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR POWER.
IT IS NOW TIME FOR YOU TO GO HOME.

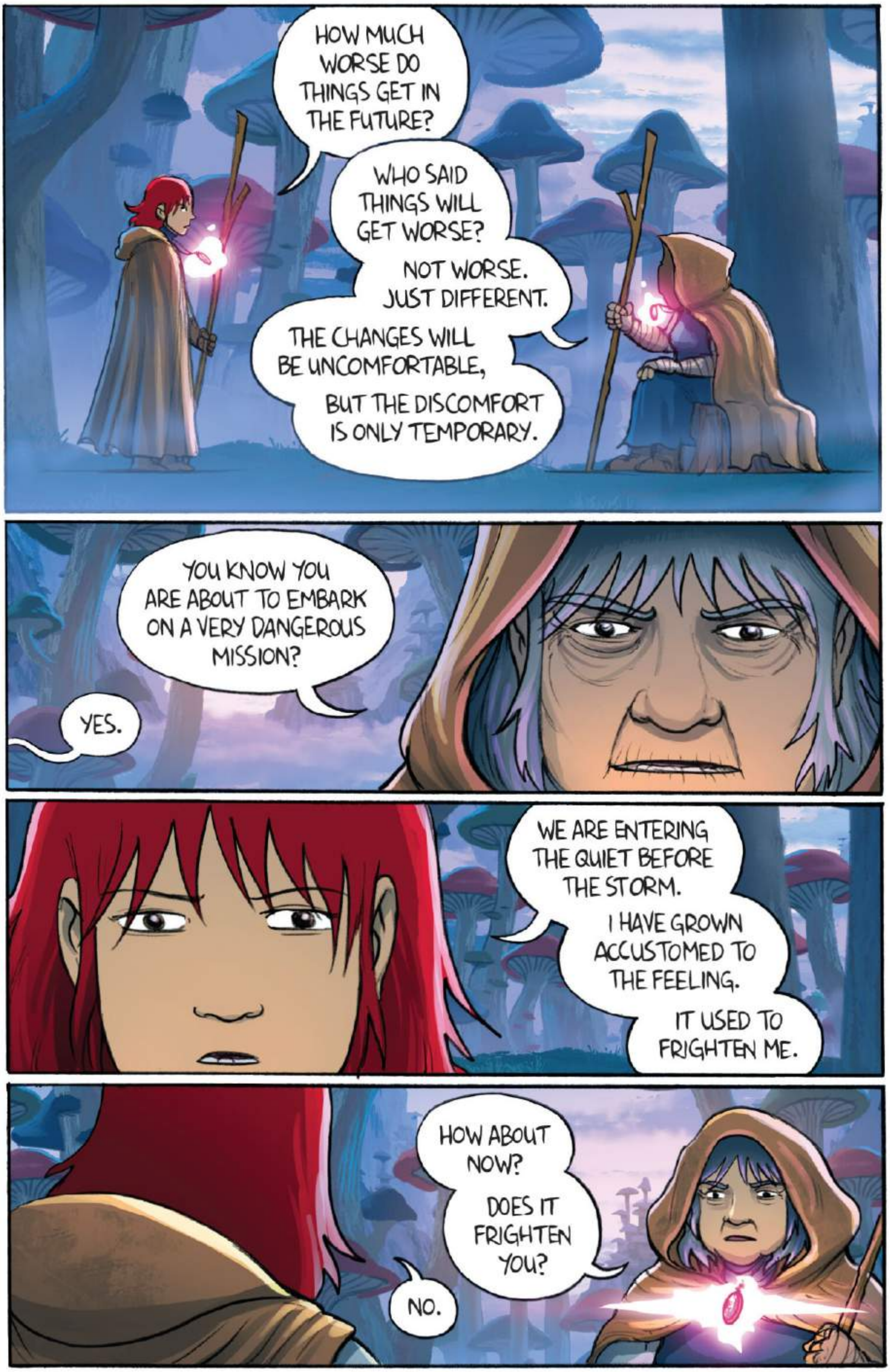

WE HAVE TO LEAVE THESE PLANETS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN WE FOUND THEM.
WE DON'T LEAVE UNTIL WE DO THAT.
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, EMILY.
I KNOW.
BUT IF WE DON'T STOP THE CONFLICT HERE, IT WILL FIND ITS WAY BACK TO EARTH.
PING!!
I AM GOING TO NEED YOUR MASTERS' HELP.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU ARE OUT THERE--
BUT I NEED YOU TO GO FIND MY FAMILY AND LET THEM KNOW WHERE I AM.
NOD.
BRING US BACK TOGETHER.


AND TAKE US TO THE SHADOWS.


Z.
Z.


HWEEEEEE
HWEEEEEE


SILAS CREATED WONDROUS TOYS BIG AND SMALL.
SOME OF THEM ARE AS INTRICATE AS THEIR REAL-LIFE INSPIRATIONS.
SUCH AS THIS GOLDEN MOTH.
HE INTENDED FOR THESE TOYS TO HELP US.
AND THEY HAVE HELPED US.
BUT THEIR HELP HAS COME AT A STEEP PRICE.
BECAUSE OF THEM, WE MAY BE LOSING A SENSE OF WHO AND WHAT WE ARE.



HOW MUCH WORSE DO THINGS GET IN THE FUTURE?
WHO SAID THINGS WILL GET WORSE?
NOT WORSE. JUST DIFFERENT.
THE CHANGES WILL BE UNCOMFORTABLE,
BUT THE DISCOMFORT IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
YOU KNOW YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A VERY DANGEROUS MISSION?
YES.
WE ARE ENTERING THE QUIET BEFORE THE STORM.
I HAVE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO THE FEELING.
IT USED TO FRIGHTEN ME.
HOW ABOUT NOW?
DOES IT FRIGHTEN YOU?
NO.


NOW I LOOK FORWARD TO THE SENSE OF ANTICIPATION.
IS IT WRONG TO NOT BE AFRAID?
IT JUST MEANS YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE PREPARED.
THIS LITTLE MACHINE HAS NAVIN'S COORDINATES.
IT WILL TAKE YOU TO WHERE HE AND MOM ARE LOCATED.
THIS LEG OF THE JOURNEY WILL NOT BE EASY.
AND THERE WILL BE...
CONSEQUENCES. SO PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

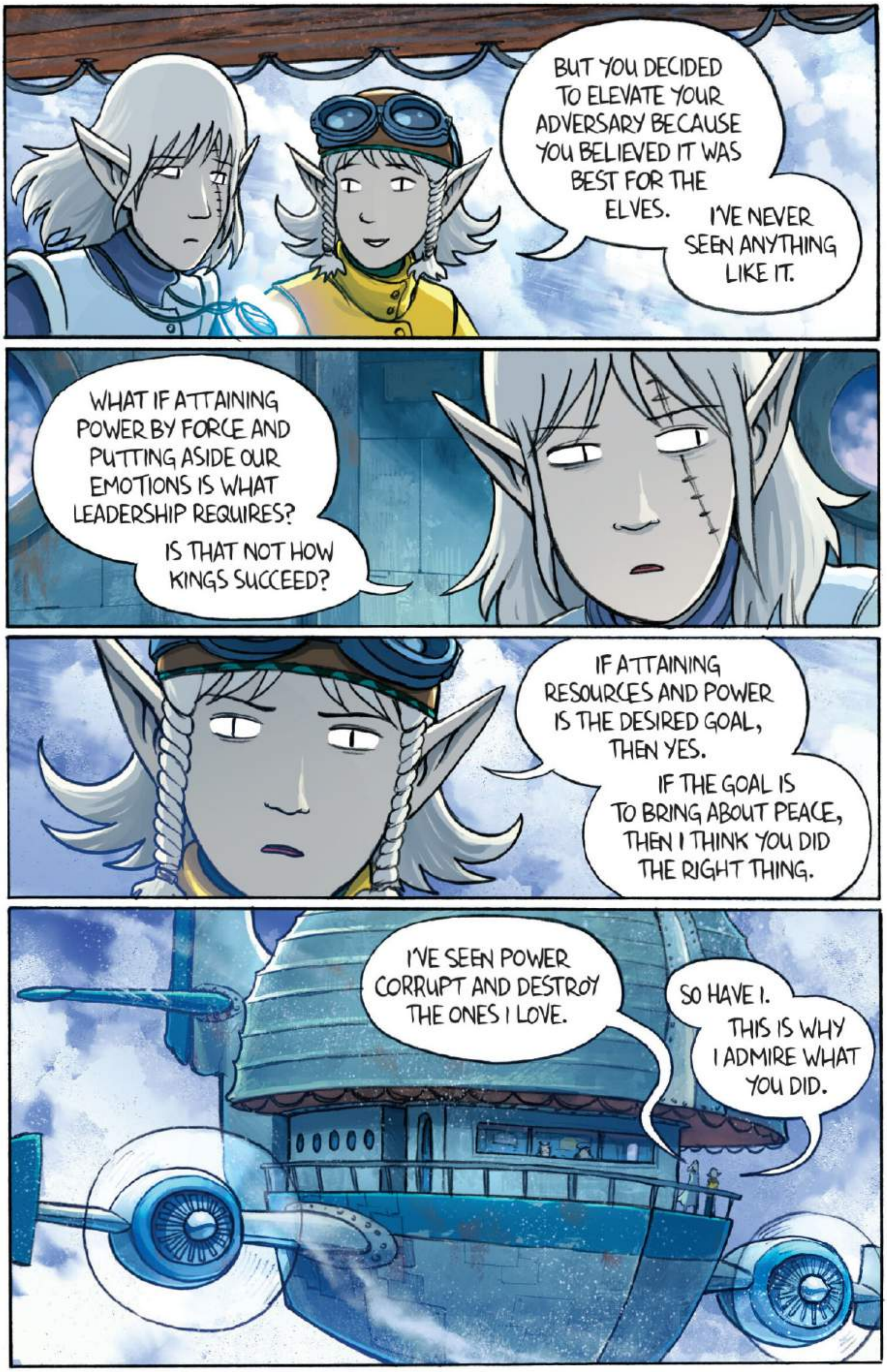

CONSEQUENCES?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EMILY?
WHO ARE YOU SPEAKING WITH?
I WAS JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.


HOWEVER, I DID FIND THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
A MACHINE THAT CAN HELP US LOCATE MY FAMILY.
WHIRRR CLICK!
HOW CAN WE TRUST IT?
I DON'T TRUST IT.
BUT IT WAS CREATED BY MY ANCESTOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING MY FAMILY TOGETHER.
WHIRRRRRR...

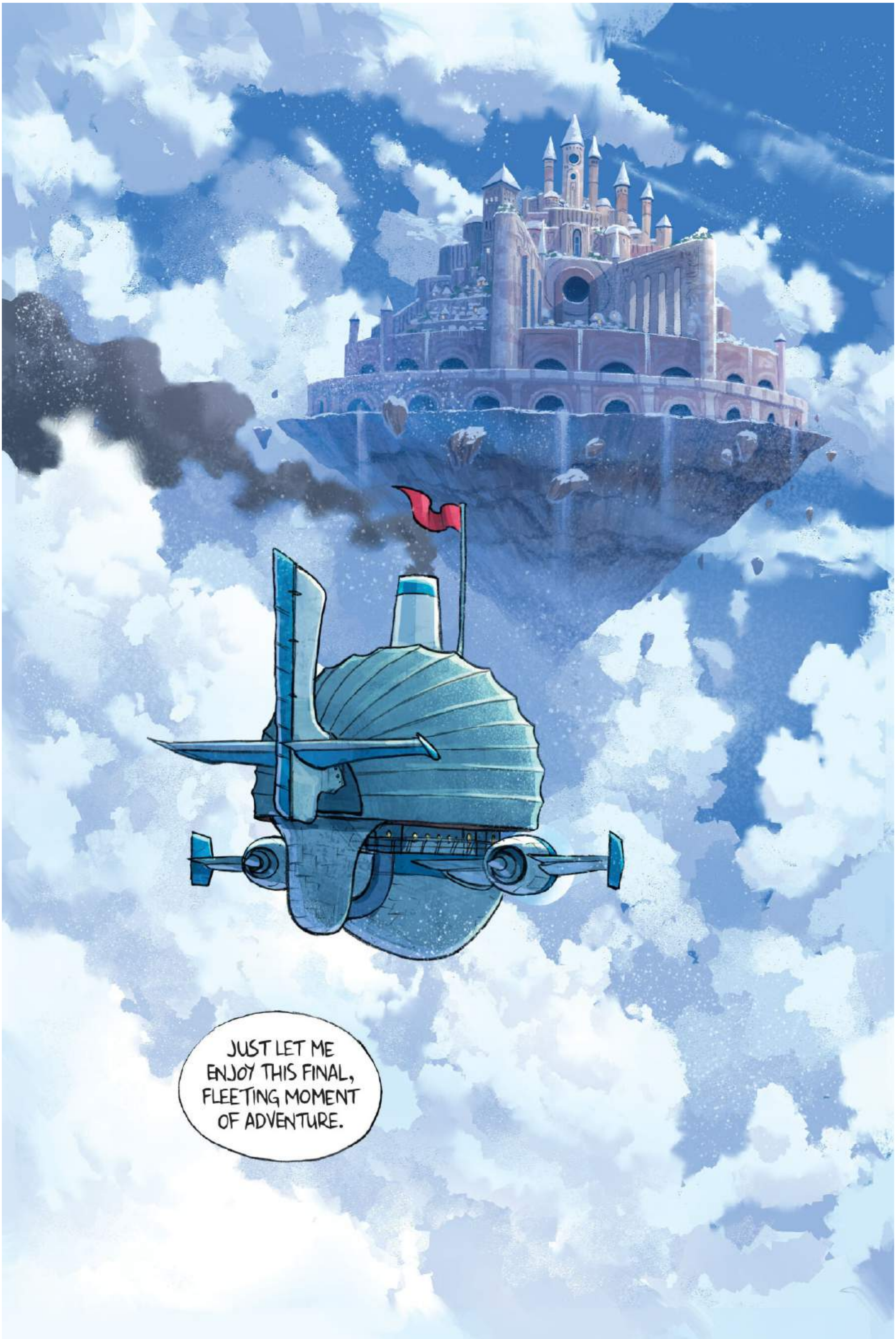

I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW IT.
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOLLOWING THE WIND.
THEN WE WILL RIDE ALONG WITH YOU AND THE WIND.
THANK YOU, CORA.
I APPRECIATE YOUR COMPANY.
THESE TIMES REMIND ME OF SOMETHING OUR PARENTS USED TO TELL US.
THAT OUR SURVIVAL MAY HINGE ON THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS WHO ARE FAR AWAY OR NOT SEEN.

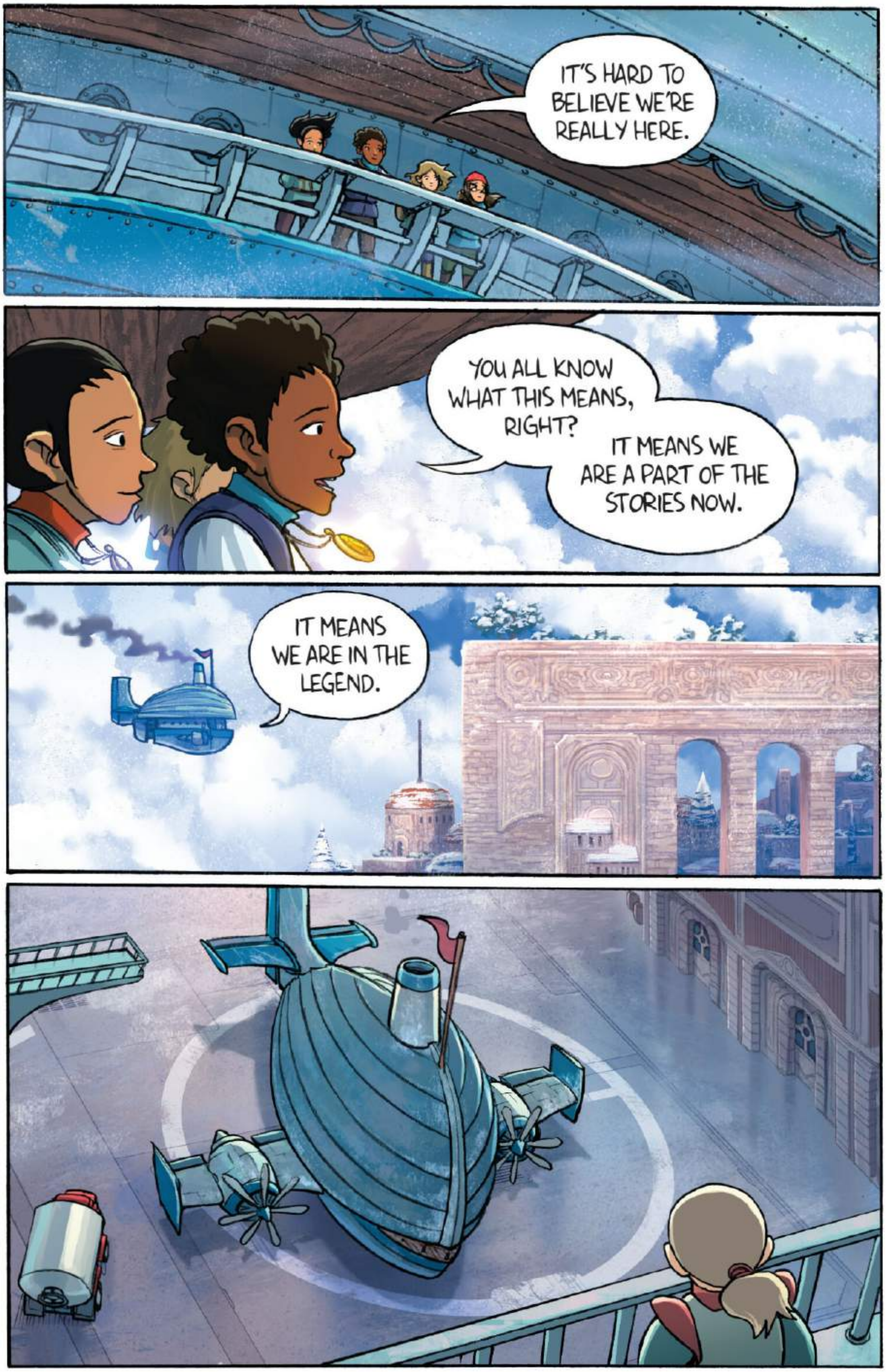

AND IF WE WORK TO DO RIGHT BY THEM--
THEY WILL DO THE SAME FOR US.
THE GOLBEZ CYCLE, ALLEDIA

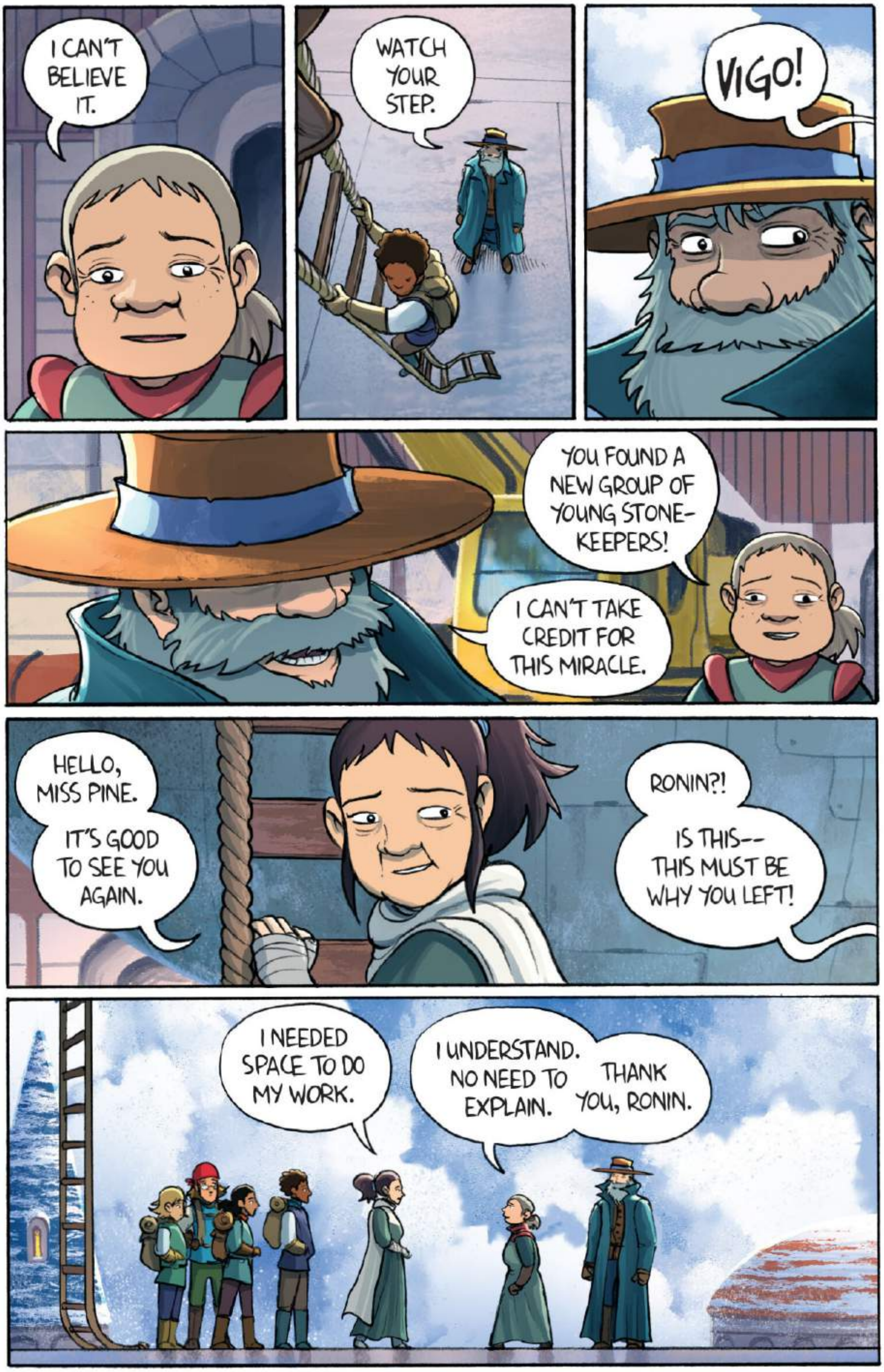

DO WE REALLY HAVE TO REVIEW THIS MORE?
YES.
IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED AND FOCUSED, YOU WILL FACE DEFEAT.
RUN IT AGAIN.
ARE YOU DOING OKAY, TRELLIS?
YES. I'M DOING FINE.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE IT.
I'M THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO WALK AWAY FROM THE THRONE.
I'M AFRAID I HAVE LET MANY ELVES DOWN.
I THOUGHT WHAT YOU DID WAS ADMIRABLE.
I'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY AMBITIOUS PEOPLE ALL MY LIFE.
THEY WOULD DESTROY EVEN THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY IF THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD HELP THEM SUCCEED.


BUT YOU DECIDED TO ELEVATE YOUR ADVERSARY BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED IT WAS BEST FOR THE ELVES.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
WHAT IF ATTAINING POWER BY FORCE AND PUTTING ASIDE OUR EMOTIONS IS WHAT LEADERSHIP REQUIRES?
IS THAT NOT HOW KINGS SUCCEED?
IF ATTAINING RESOURCES AND POWER IS THE DESIRED GOAL, THEN YES.
IF THE GOAL IS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE, THEN I THINK YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
I'VE SEEN POWER CORRUPT AND DESTROY THE ONES I LOVE.
SO HAVE I.
THIS IS WHY I ADMIRE WHAT YOU DID.


HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
TRELLIS!
COME ON IN AND MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME!
HI, TRELLIS!
WE'RE ABOUT TO BEGIN OUR APPROACH INTO CIELIS.
YOU BOTH GET FRONT-ROW SEATS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME WE SEE CIELIS IN THE SKY.
SERIOUSLY!
WHY DON'T THEY JUST LEAVE IT UP HERE?
SORRY, ENZO.
IT BELONGS BACK ON THE GROUND.
LOOK, I KNOW WHY IT NEEDS TO RETURN--


JUST LET ME ENJOY THIS FINAL, FLEETING MOMENT OF ADVENTURE.


IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE REALLY HERE.
YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, RIGHT?
IT MEANS WE ARE A PART OF THE STORIES NOW.
IT MEANS WE ARE IN THE LEGEND.

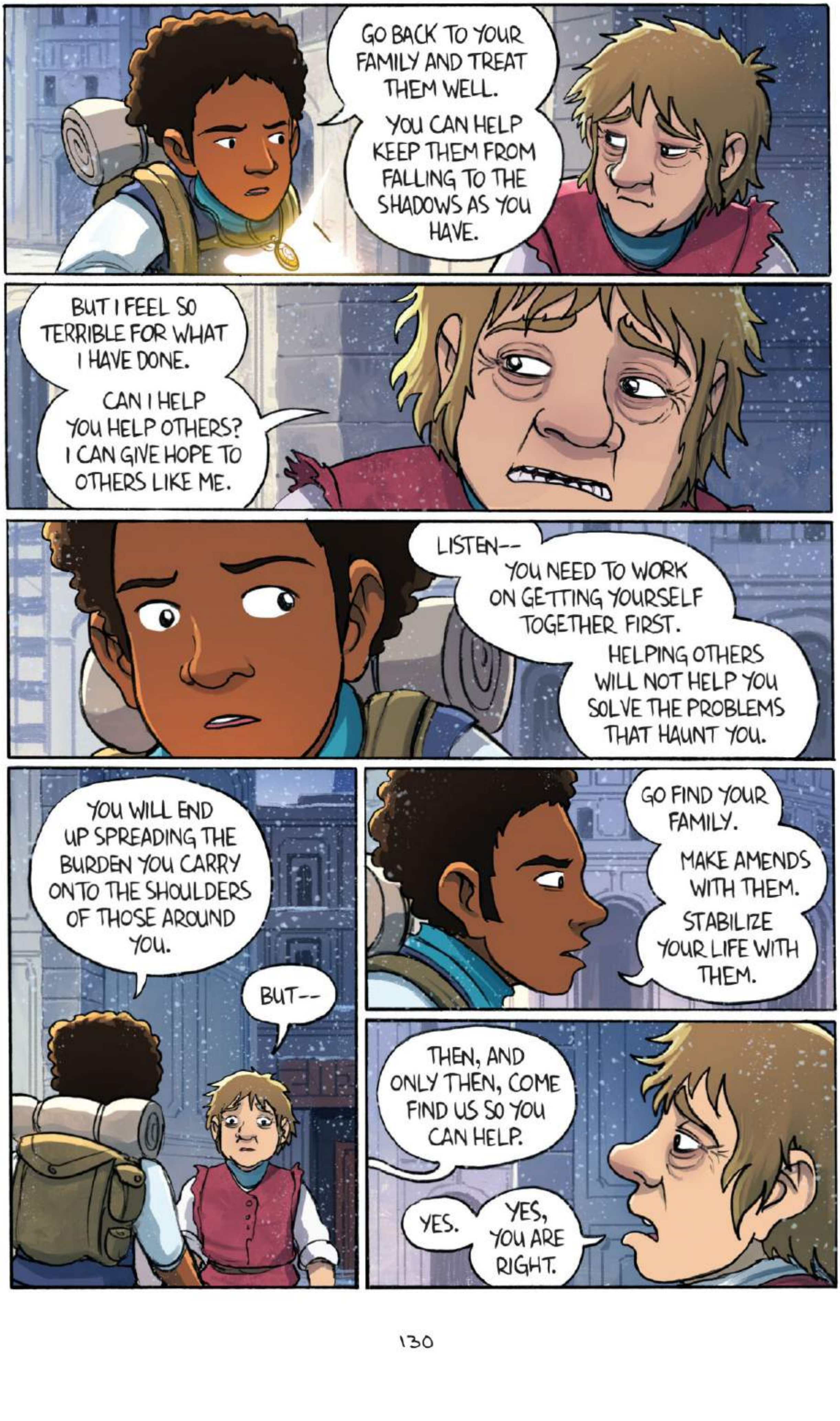

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WATCH YOUR STEP.
VIGO!
YOU FOUND A NEW GROUP OF YOUNG STONE-KEEPERS!
I CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS MIRACLE.
HELLO, MISS PINE.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
RONIN?!
IS THIS-- THIS MUST BE WHY YOU LEFT!
I NEEDED SPACE TO DO MY WORK.
I UNDERSTAND. NO NEED TO EXPLAIN.
THANK YOU, RONIN.


VIGO, SINCE YOU LEFT, THE SHADOWS HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE OVER THE CITIZENS OF CIELIS.
WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN HAD TO CLOSE BUSINESSES AS WE ATTEMPT TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE AFFLICTED... WITH MIXED RESULTS.
THE NEED FOR THE SKILLS THAT THESE STONEKEEPERS BRING TO THE TABLE HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.
I HOPE YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS ARE READY FOR THIS, RONIN.
WE ARE READY.
AND WE HAVE A PLAN.
FIRST, WE GET CIELIS BACK OUT OF THE SPELL OF THE SHADOWS.
THEN WE RETURN CIELIS TO THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE.
EVERYONE IN ALLEDIA MUST KNOW THAT THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL HAS RETURNED.


BREN--
HEY, GET OUT OF OUR TOWN!
YOUR KIND IS NOT WELCOME HERE!
GET AWAY FROM US, YOU SCOURGE!
JANIS, READY TO ASSIST WITH THIS ONE?
I GOT YOUR BACK.
STONEKEEPERS ARE NOT WELCOME HERE IN CIELIS!
GET OUT!
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING, MY FRIEND?
HIDING?
I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE!!!
LET'S GO NOW!!
SZRAK
SZRAK


SZRAK!
HNGH! WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU?!
GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
VAK!!


LISTEN, THE SHADOWS ARE GOING TO COME BACK FOR YOU, BUT YOU CAN KEEP THEM OUT OF YOUR HEAD IF YOU GET YOUR MIND RIGHT.
THEY FEED ON FEAR, FEELINGS OF GUILT, AND DOUBT.
THINGS THAT EAT YOU UP INSIDE.
DO YOU HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY UNFINISHED BUSINESS?
YOU HOLD SECRETS THAT MAKE YOU VULNERABLE TO THE SHADOWS.
DO YOU HARBOR SECRETS YOU NO LONGER WISH TO KEEP?
ARE THERE PEOPLE THAT YOU HAVE TREATED POORLY?
I--
I--
I HAVE A WIFE. A SON. A DAUGHTER. I ABANDONED THEM TO COME HERE AND PURSUE MY DREAMS.
WHEN I BEGAN TO REALIZE THE MISTAKES I HAD MADE, THAT'S WHEN THE SHADOWS GOT ME.

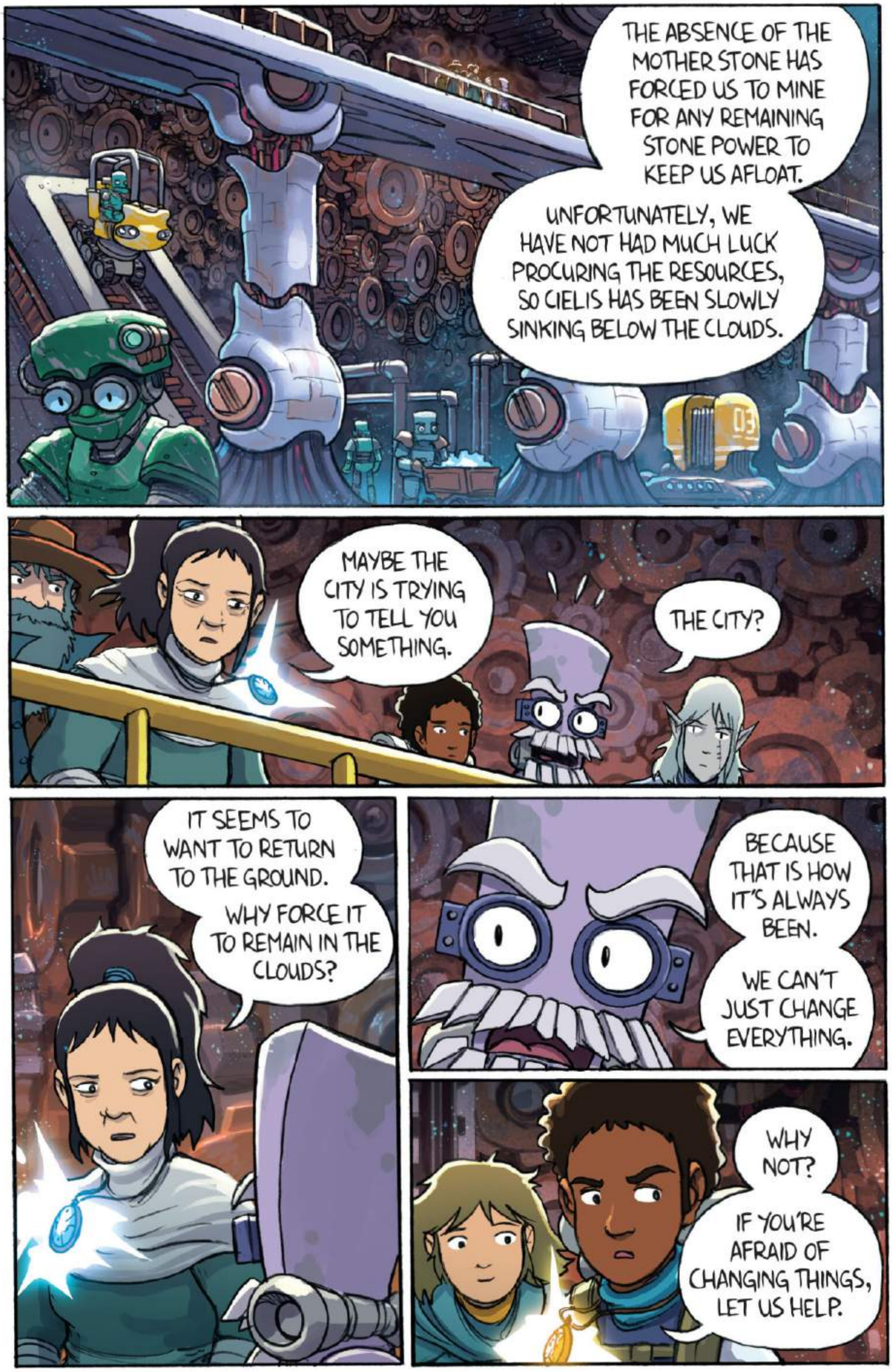

GO BACK TO YOUR FAMILY AND TREAT THEM WELL.
YOU CAN HELP KEEP THEM FROM FALLING TO THE SHADOWS AS YOU HAVE.
BUT I FEEL SO TERRIBLE FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE.
CAN I HELP YOU HELP OTHERS? I CAN GIVE HOPE TO OTHERS LIKE ME.
LISTEN--
YOU NEED TO WORK ON GETTING YOURSELF TOGETHER FIRST.
HELPING OTHERS WILL NOT HELP YOU SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT HAUNT YOU.
YOU WILL END UP SPREADING THE BURDEN YOU CARRY ONTO THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE AROUND YOU.
BUT--
GO FIND YOUR FAMILY.
MAKE AMENDS WITH THEM.
STABILIZE YOUR LIFE WITH THEM.
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, COME FIND US SO YOU CAN HELP.
YES.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.

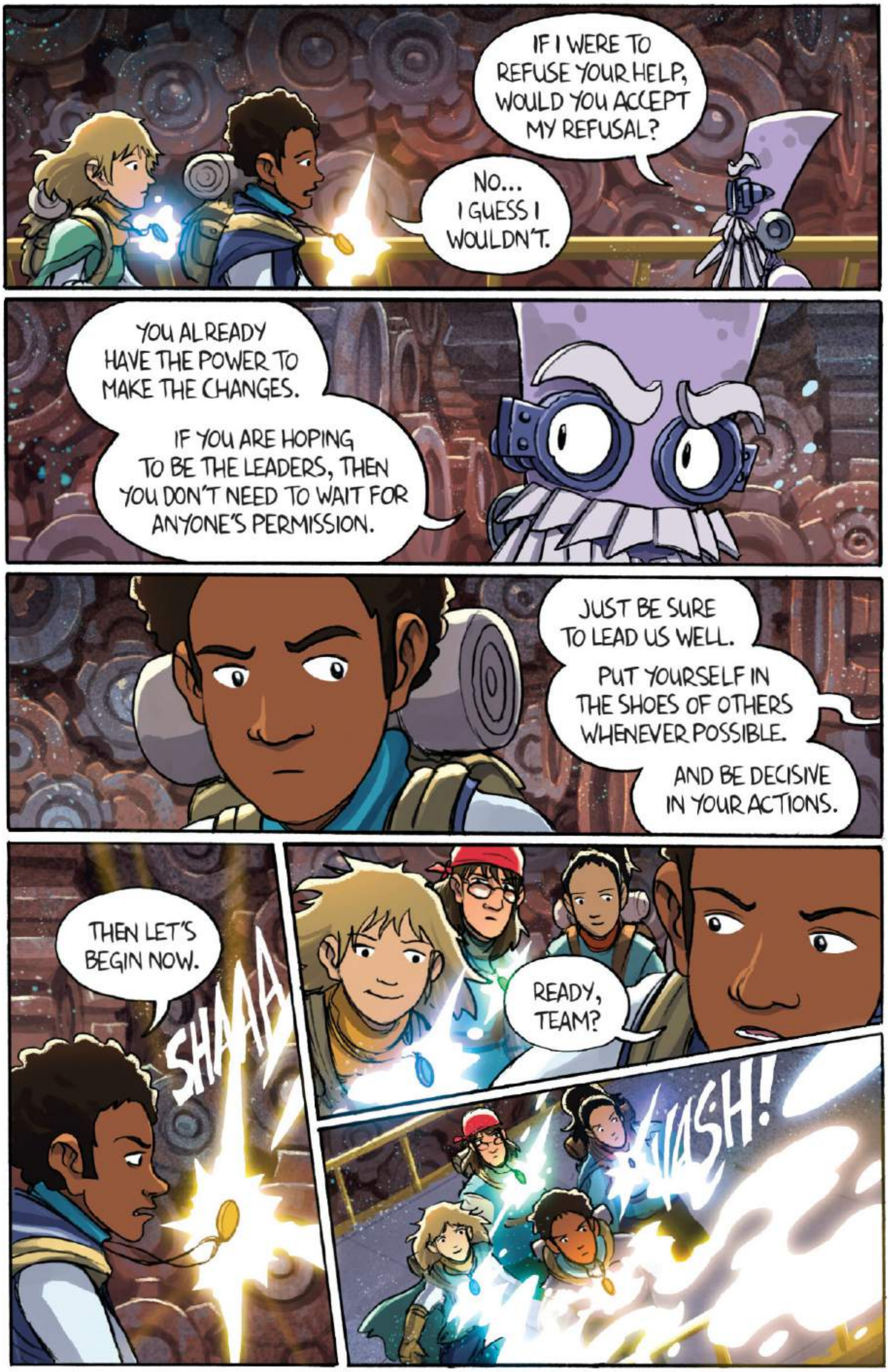

I WILL GET EVERYTHING SORTED OUT!
AND I WILL COME BACK.
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU, STONEKEEPER!
HE WILL REGRESS.
AND HE WILL BE UNDER A SHADOW'S SPELL ONCE AGAIN.
HM.
VERY LIKELY.
AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP DOING THIS FOR EVERYONE WHO IS AFFLICTED.
THERE SIMPLY ARE NOT ENOUGH OF US TO FULFILL THE NEED FOR HELP.
THEN WE WILL NEED TO PREPARE OTHERS TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD.
THAT BEGINS BY MAKING SURE THEY KNOW WE ARE HERE.
IT IS TIME FOR CIELIS AND THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL TO RETURN HOME TO WINDSOR.


GENERAL PUK, WE HAVE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THERE IS A PLOT TO TAKE CONTROL OF CIELIS AWAY FROM US.
THE RINGLEADER IS OUR CHIEF ARCHITECT, MAY PINE.
SERGEANT BIRCH, ARE YOU SPYING ON MISS PINE?
SIR,
WE ARE ABOUT TO LOSE POWER.
I HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED BY SILAS CHARNON TO WORK IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF CIELIS.
MY JOB IS NOT SIMPLY ABOUT STAYING IN POWER.
YES, I KNOW,
BUT, SIR--
PLEASE TELL EVERYONE TO PREPARE TO GIVE CONTROL BACK TO THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.
SIR, NO!


ARE YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PUTTING THE FATE OF CIELIS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN?!
LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PUT THE CITY'S FATE IN YOUR HANDS.
MAYBE WE DO NOT KNOW ALL, SERGEANT.
BESIDES, THEY ARE A GROUP OF STONEKEEPERS.
THEY COULD SIMPLY TAKE CONTROL BY FORCE IF THEY WANTED TO.
THESE "CHILDREN" ARE ALSO AIDED BY TWO POWERFUL FORMER MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.
IT WOULD BE VERY UNWISE TO DISMISS THIS GROUP AS BEING UNFIT TO LEAD.
TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT.
BUT--
NO MORE BUTS.
YES, SIR.
WELCOME BACK TO CIELIS, HONORABLE STONEKEEPERS!
LET'S NOT PRETEND TO BE FRIENDS.
YOU NEED OUR HELP.
YES.


WE NEED ACCESS TO THE ENGINE CORE BENEATH CIELIS.
PLEASE TAKE US THERE.
WE HAVE NOT HAD A STONEKEEPER ACCESS THE ENGINE CORE SINCE MAX GRIFFIN.
SO PLEASE EXCUSE MY APPREHENSION AND CAUTIOUS APPROACH.
WE HAVE BEEN BURNED BADLY ONCE BEFORE.
MAX GOT IN HERE BY TELLING YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO HEAR.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
I AM NOT MAX GRIFFIN.
I CAN SEE WHY THE OLD COUNCIL AND YOU DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE.
I THINK YOU WILL FIND THAT THINGS HAVE CHANGED AROUND HERE FOR THE BETTER.


THE ABSENCE OF THE MOTHER STONE HAS FORCED US TO MINE FOR ANY REMAINING STONE POWER TO KEEP US AFLOAT.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH LUCK PROCURING THE RESOURCES, SO CIELIS HAS BEEN SLOWLY SINKING BELOW THE CLOUDS.
MAYBE THE CITY IS TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
THE CITY?
IT SEEMS TO WANT TO RETURN TO THE GROUND.
WHY FORCE IT TO REMAIN IN THE CLOUDS?
BECAUSE THAT IS HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.
WE CAN'T JUST CHANGE EVERYTHING.
WHY NOT?
IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF CHANGING THINGS, LET US HELP.

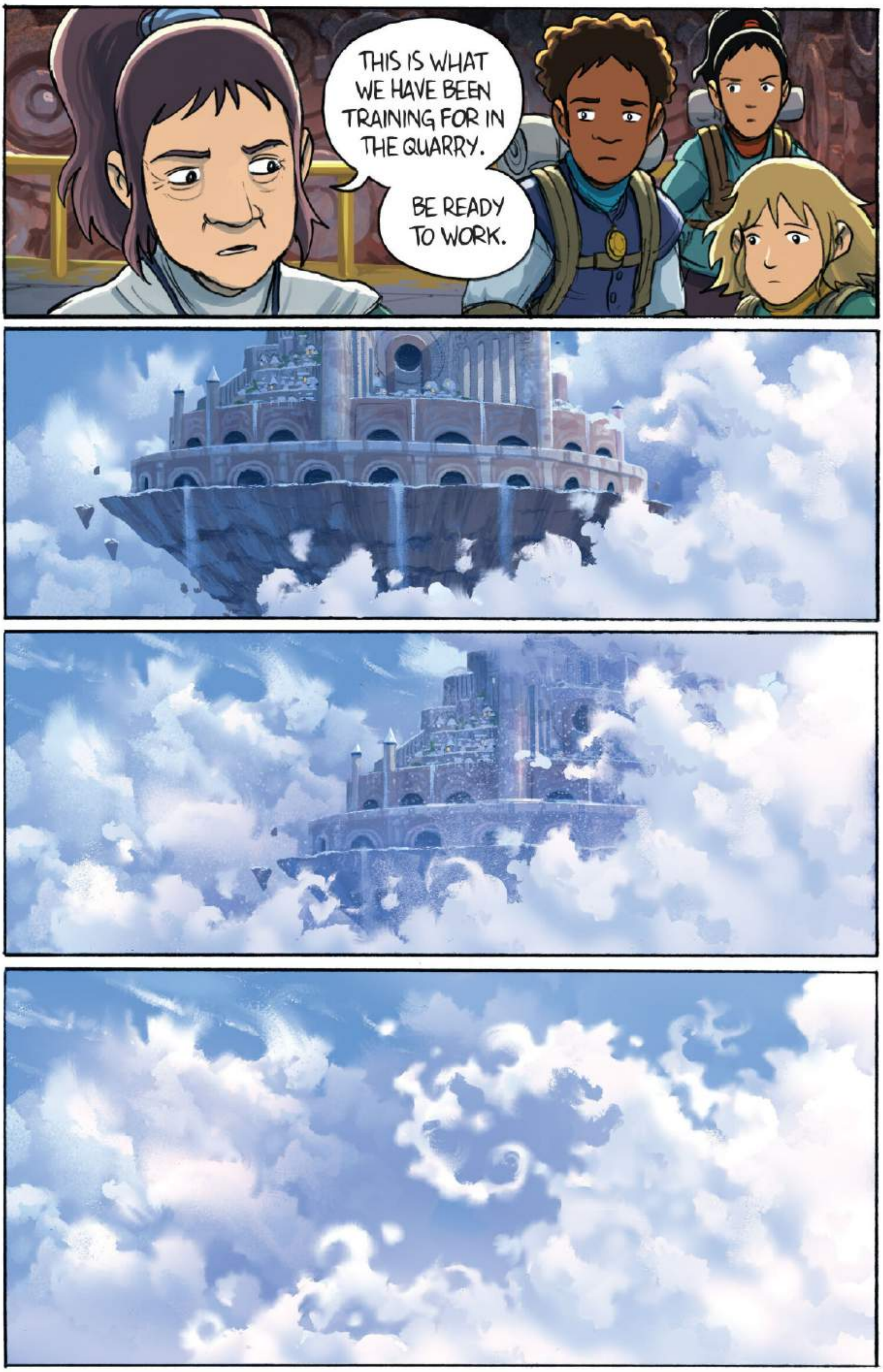

IF I WERE TO REFUSE YOUR HELP, WOULD YOU ACCEPT MY REFUSAL?
NO... I GUESS I WOULDN'T.
YOU ALREADY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE THE CHANGES.
IF YOU ARE HOPING TO BE THE LEADERS, THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO WAIT FOR ANYONE'S PERMISSION.
JUST BE SURE TO LEAD US WELL.
PUT YOURSELF IN THE SHOES OF OTHERS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
AND BE DECISIVE IN YOUR ACTIONS.
THEN LET'S BEGIN NOW.
SHAAA
READY, TEAM?
SH!


SZRAK!!
SIR!
THE ENGINE CORE IS STARTING TO POWER UP ON ITS OWN!
TELL EVERYONE TO STAND DOWN!
WE HAVE AN ALTERNATE POWER SOURCE FOR NOW.
VRRRRNN
VRRRRRRR
ARE YOU PLUGGED IN?
YES!
I CAN FEEL THE CITY.
BEGINNING OUR DESCENT TO THE SURFACE NOW.
HWEEEEE

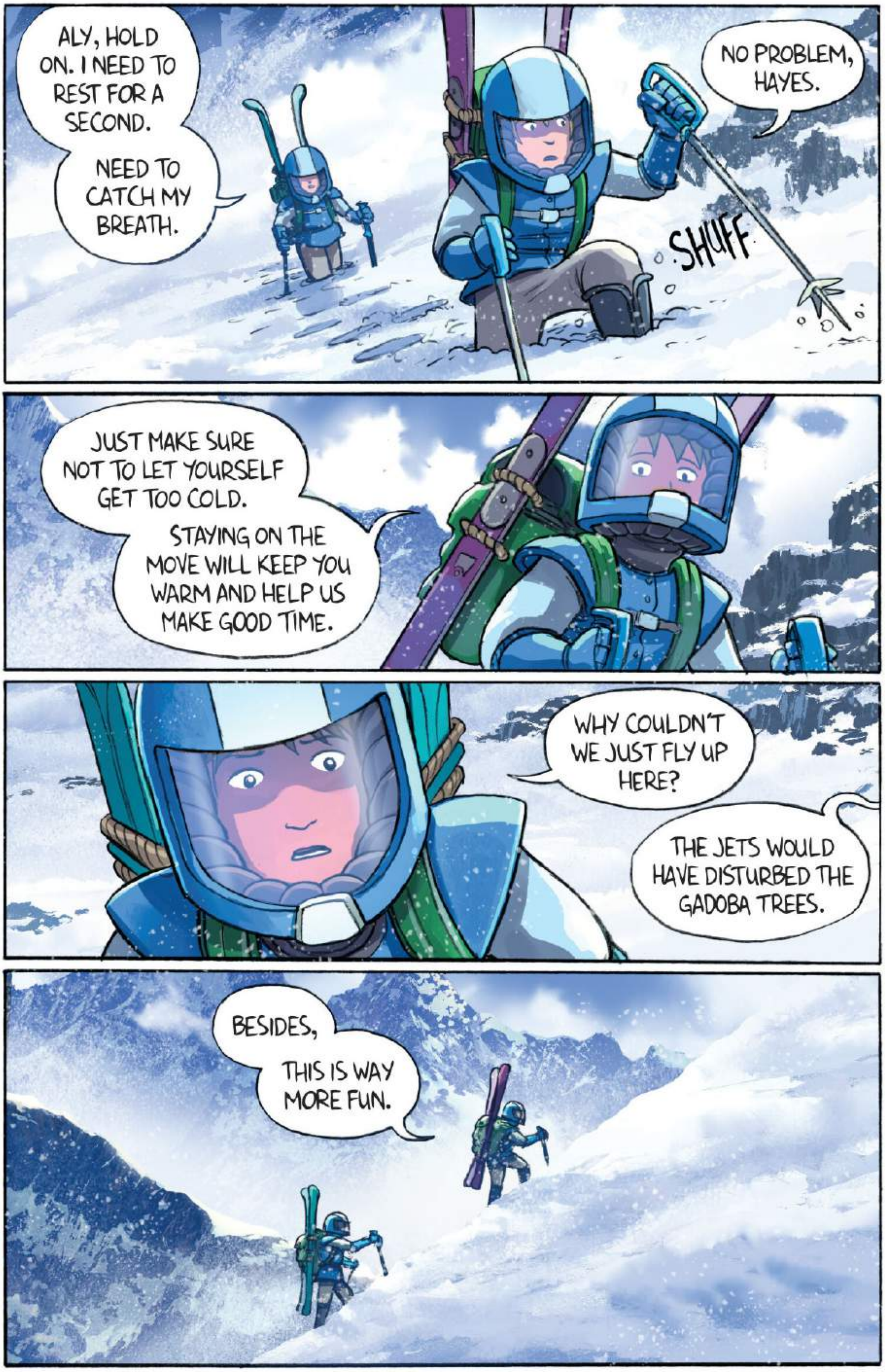

KRAKOOM!!
KRAKOOM
WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT BEING AT THE WINDOW, KALI?!
STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS OR THE SHADOWS WILL SEE YOU!
DID YOU HEAR ME?
LOOK, DAD! THEY'RE GOING AWAY!
GOING AWAY?
THE SHADOWS--
THEY'RE LEAVING CIELIS.


SIR, WE ARE LOSING ELEVATION VERY QUICKLY.
MONITOR OUR SPEED.
MAKE SURE WE AREN'T MOVING TOO FAST ON THE APPROACH.
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING, STONE-KEEPER.
QUARRY TEAM, YOU MAY RELAX NOW.
EVERYONE POWER DOWN.


THEY ARE GOOD STUDENTS.
YOU TAUGHT THEM WELL.
THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING THEM. AND FOR ACCEPTING ME.
IT'S NOT AS IF I HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE.
AS SOON AS THEY FEEL THEY NO LONGER NEED US, THEY WILL BE ADVERSARIES AGAIN.
HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH IT?
I WENT AWAY AND LIVED ON A REMOTE ISLAND.
UNTIL SILAS'S TOYS FOUND A WAY TO BRING ME BACK.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS A RESPONSIBILITY WE CAN JUST WALK AWAY FROM.
I RECOMMEND MAKING THE BEST OF IT.
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE FOLLOWING OUR LEAD.
YES.
WE TALKED ABOUT THIS FOR YEARS AND NOW IT'S HERE.

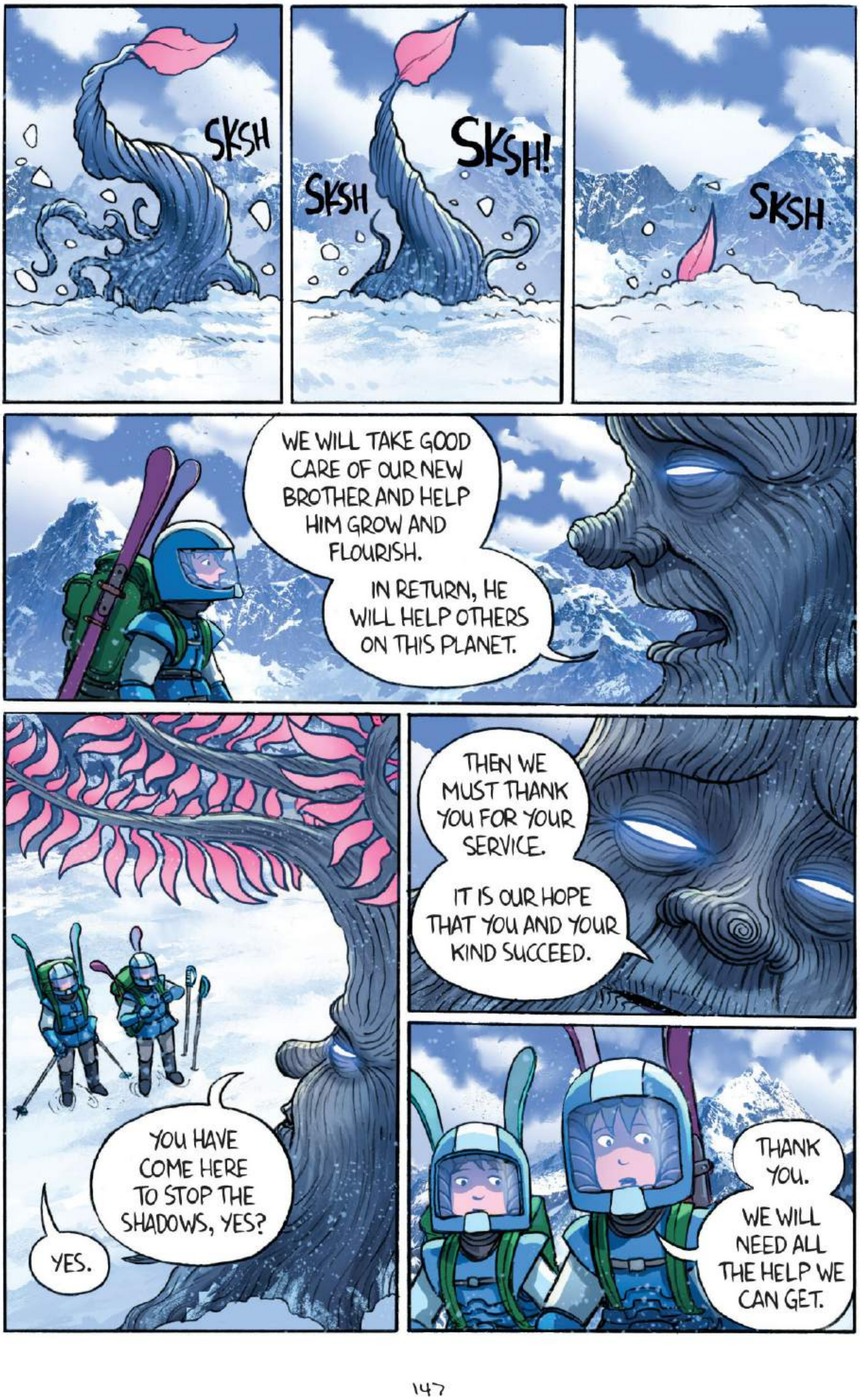

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRAINING FOR IN THE QUARRY.
BE READY TO WORK.




ALY, HOLD ON. I NEED TO REST FOR A SECOND.
NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH.
NO PROBLEM, HAYES.
SHUFF
JUST MAKE SURE NOT TO LET YOURSELF GET TOO COLD.
STAYING ON THE MOVE WILL KEEP YOU WARM AND HELP US MAKE GOOD TIME.
WHY COULDN'T WE JUST FLY UP HERE?
THE JETS WOULD HAVE DISTURBED THE GADOBA TREES.
BESIDES,
THIS IS WAY MORE FUN.

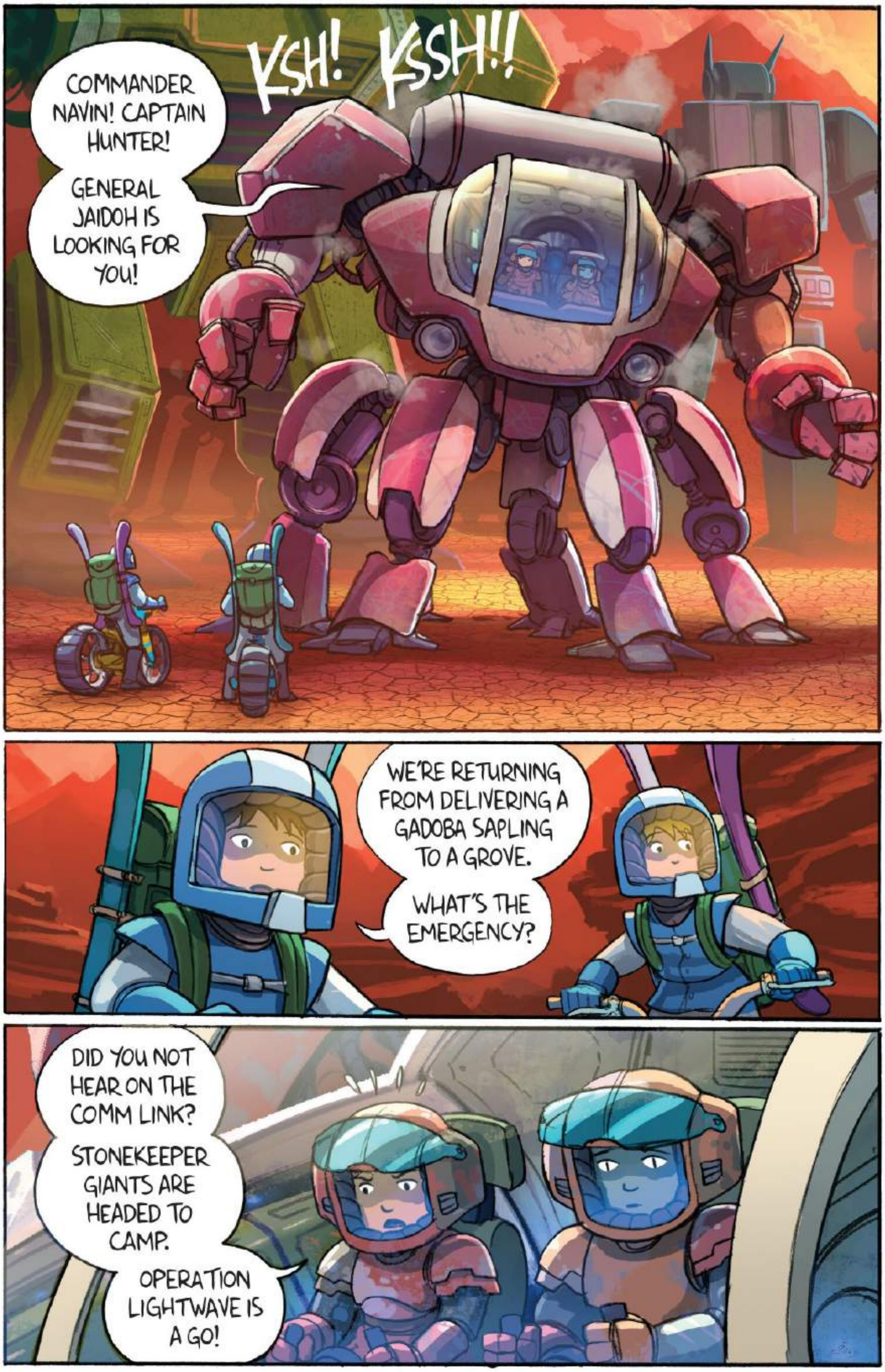

I THINK WE HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT WHAT FUN IS.
JUST WAIT--
IT GETS BETTER ON THE WAY DOWN.
SHUFF SHUFF

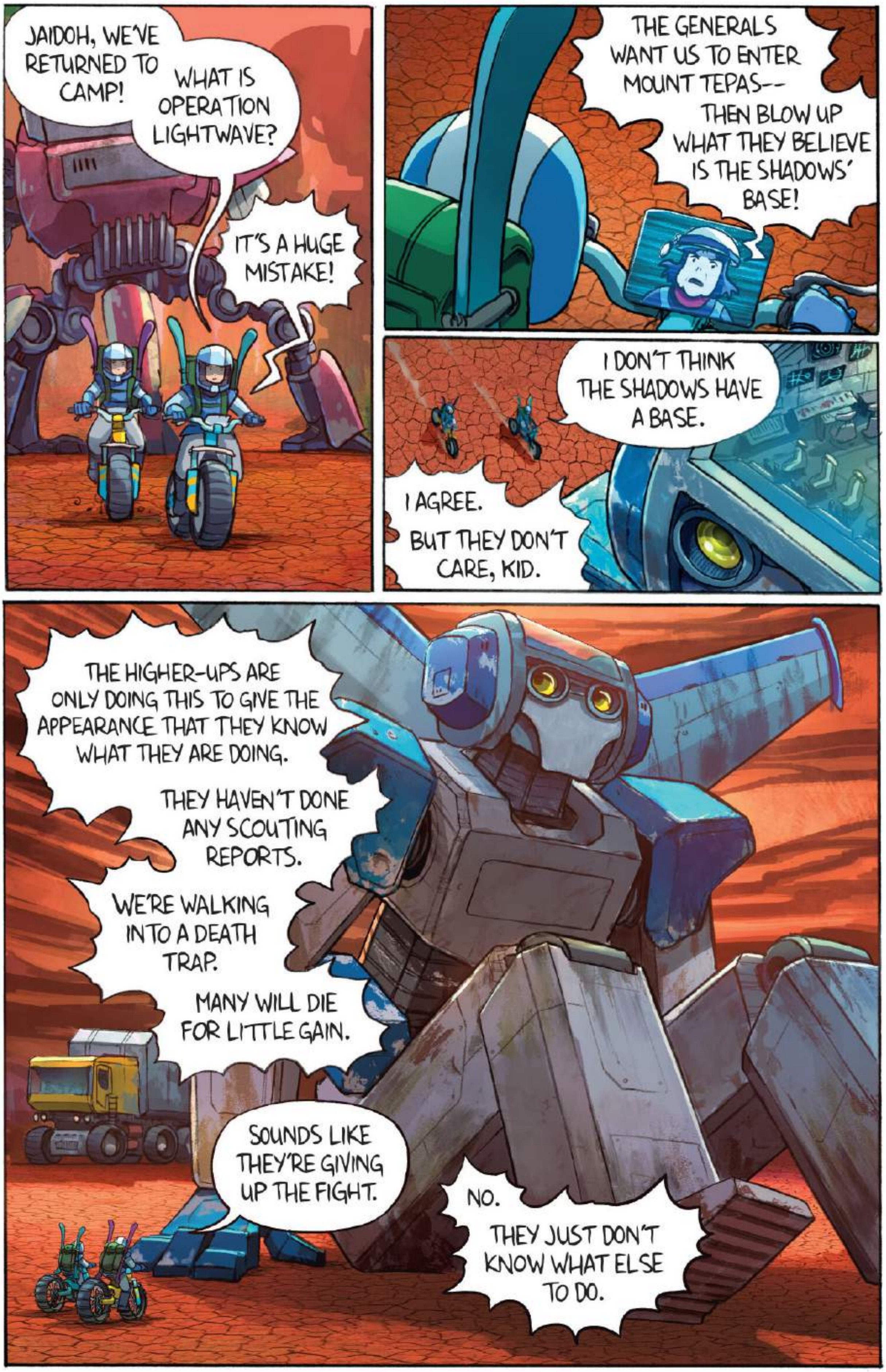

ONE MORE STEP AND WE CAN HEAD BACK TO BASE.
OKAY, MY FRIEND. YOU CAN COME OUT.
YOU'RE HOME NOW.
KRACK!
KRK!
KSH!
OH, HOW WONDERFUL.
WE HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR.

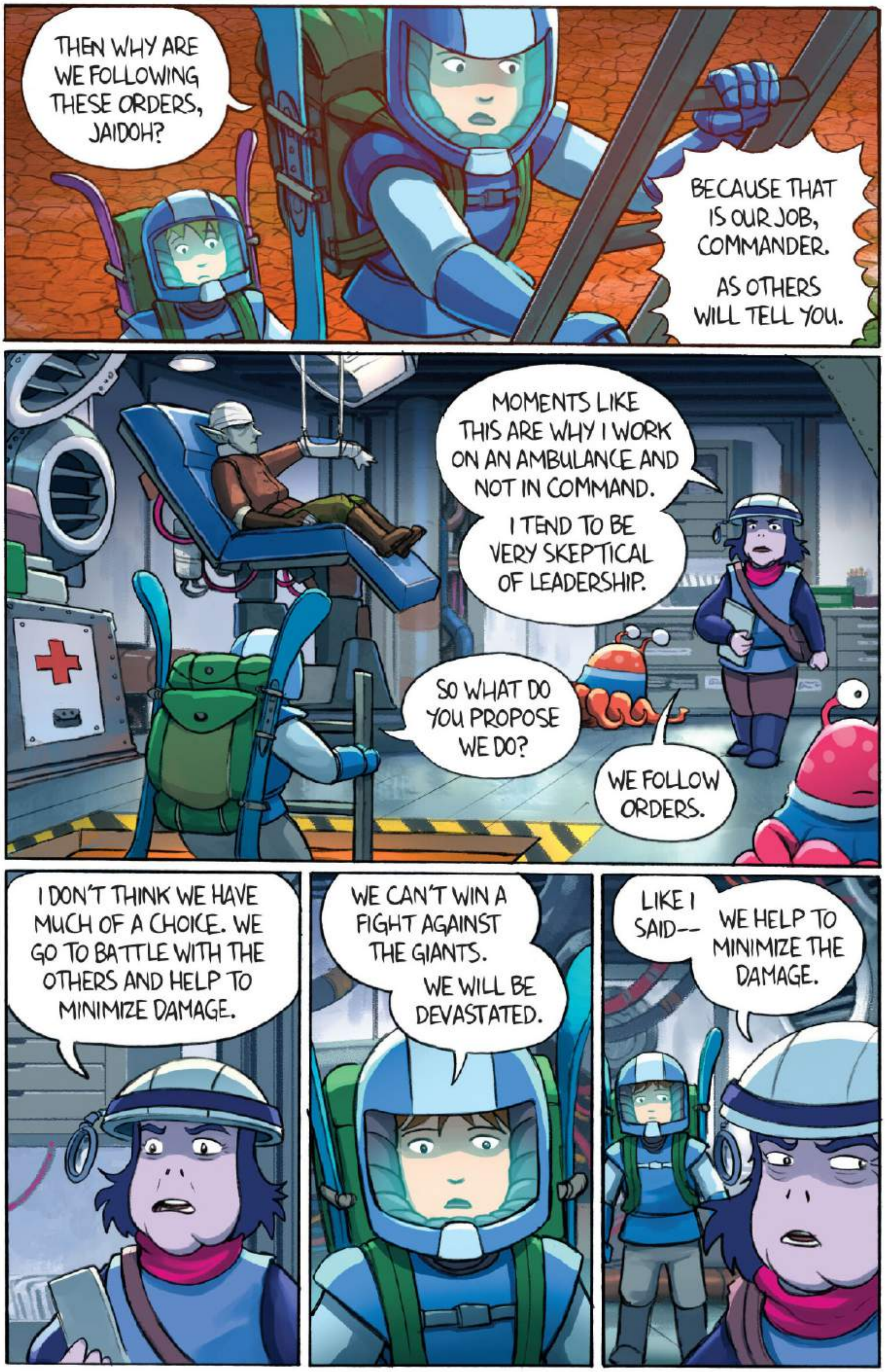

SKSH
SKSH
SKSH!
SKSH.
WE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF OUR NEW BROTHER AND HELP HIM GROW AND FLOURISH.
IN RETURN, HE WILL HELP OTHERS ON THIS PLANET.
YOU HAVE COME HERE TO STOP THE SHADOWS, YES?
YES.
THEN WE MUST THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.
IT IS OUR HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR KIND SUCCEED.
THANK YOU.
WE WILL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.


SHK!
SHUF.
CLACK!!
CLACK!
JUST REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING AND TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.
THIS IS REALLY STEEP.
WHOOOOSH!
REMEMBER TO STAY ON YOUR TOES. DON'T FALL BACK.
GOT IT.
WATCH OUT FOR ICY PATCHES OF SNOW!
STAY ON YOUR TOES!
GOT IT!

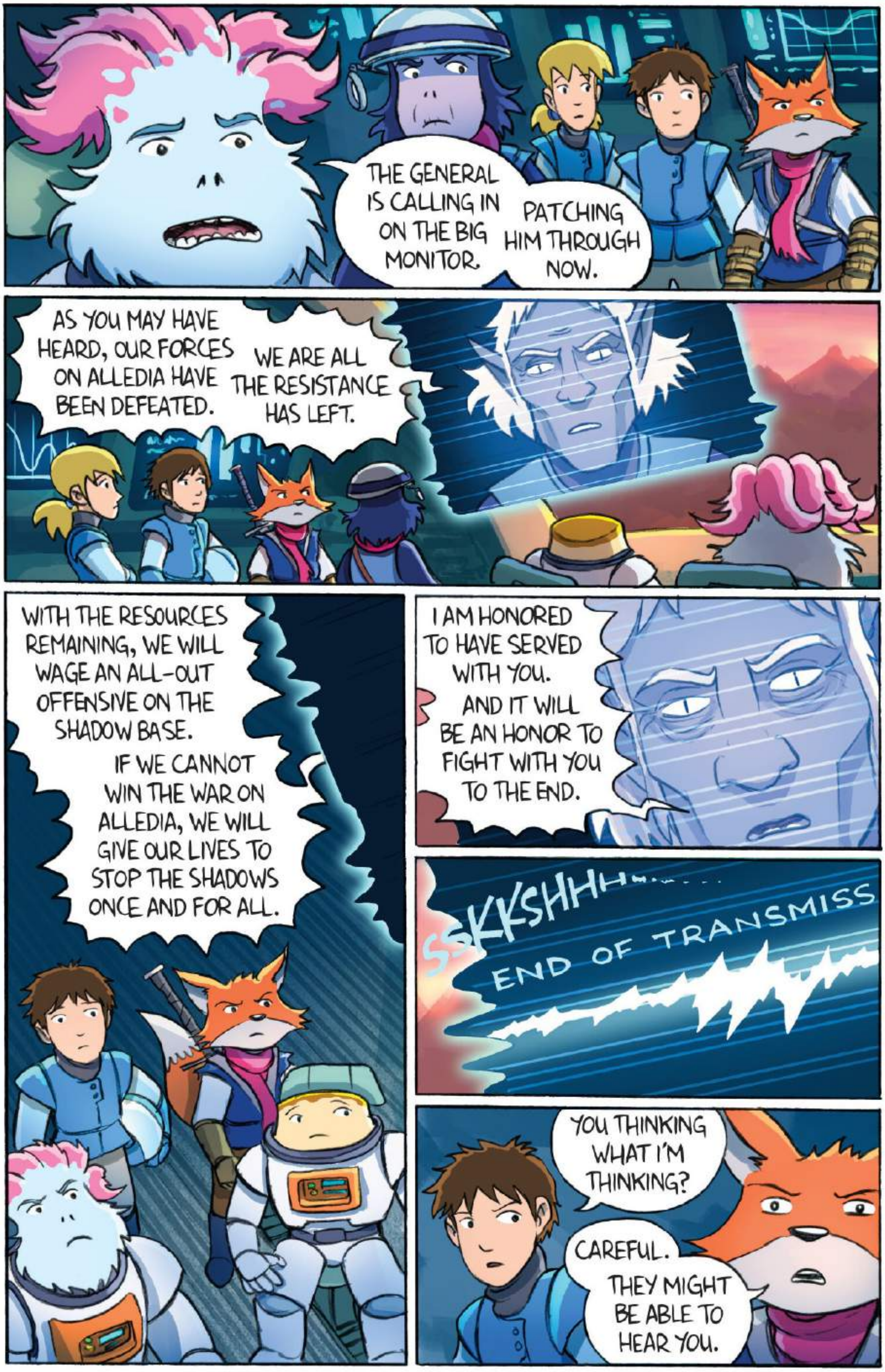

KEEP YOUR WEIGHT OUT IN FRONT!
WHOA!
KRKRKRK!!
OKAY, GOT IT!
SEE YOU AT THE BOTTOM!
WHIRRR!

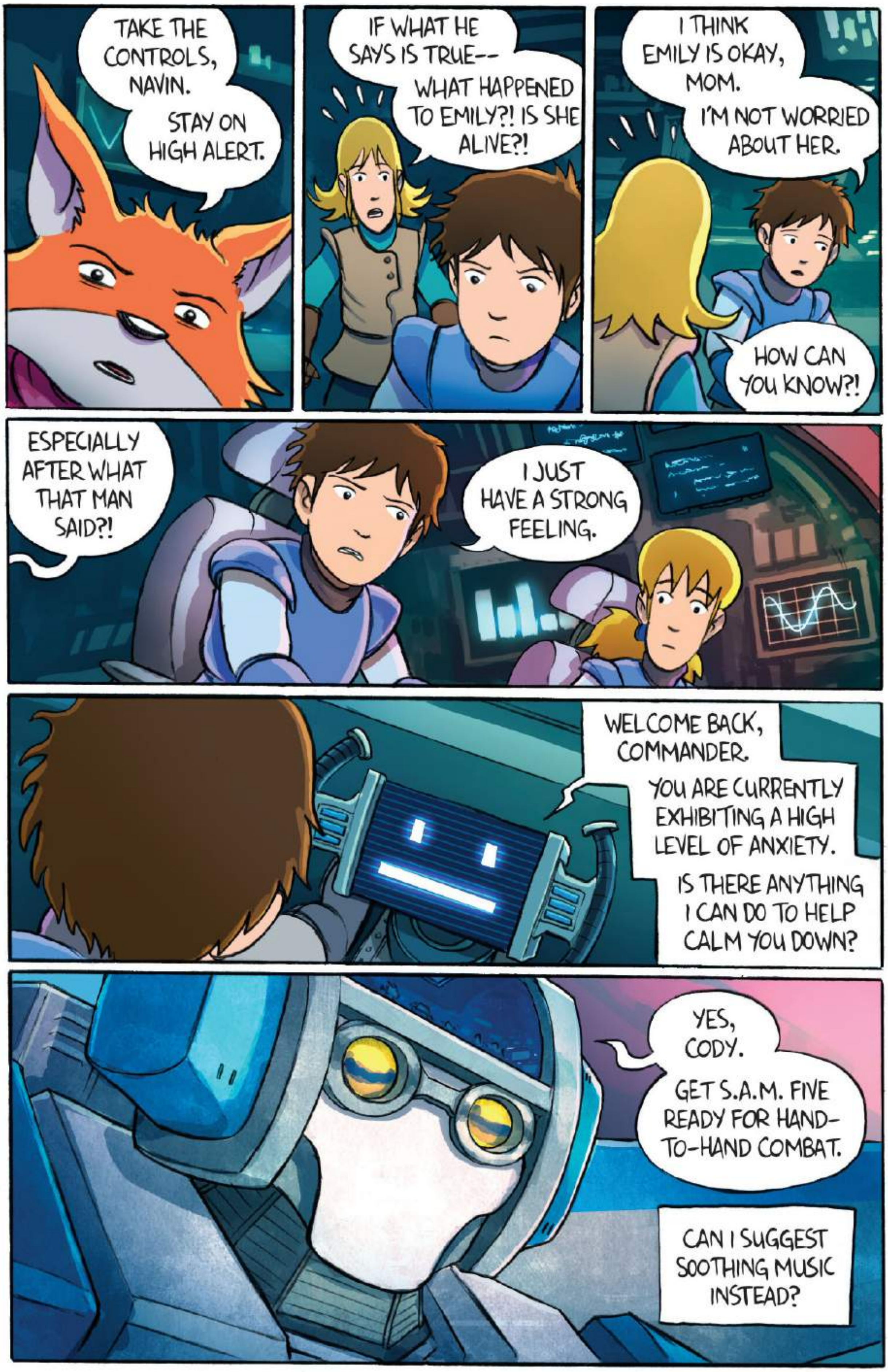

KSH! KSSH!!
COMMANDER NAVIN! CAPTAIN HUNTER!
GENERAL JAIDOH IS LOOKING FOR YOU!
WE'RE RETURNING FROM DELIVERING A GADOBA SAPLING TO A GROVE.
WHAT'S THE EMERGENCY?
DID YOU NOT HEAR ON THE COMM LINK?
STONEKEEPER GIANTS ARE HEADED TO CAMP.
OPERATION LIGHTWAVE IS A GO!


JAIDOH, WE'VE RETURNED TO CAMP!
WHAT IS OPERATION LIGHTWAVE?
IT'S A HUGE MISTAKE!
THE GENERALS WANT US TO ENTER MOUNT TEPAS--
THEN BLOW UP WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS THE SHADOWS' BASE!
I DON'T THINK THE SHADOWS HAVE A BASE.
I AGREE.
BUT THEY DON'T CARE, KID.
THE HIGHER-UPS ARE ONLY DOING THIS TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT THEY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING.
THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANY SCOUTING REPORTS.
WE'RE WALKING INTO A DEATH TRAP.
MANY WILL DIE FOR LITTLE GAIN.
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE GIVING UP THE FIGHT.
NO.
THEY JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

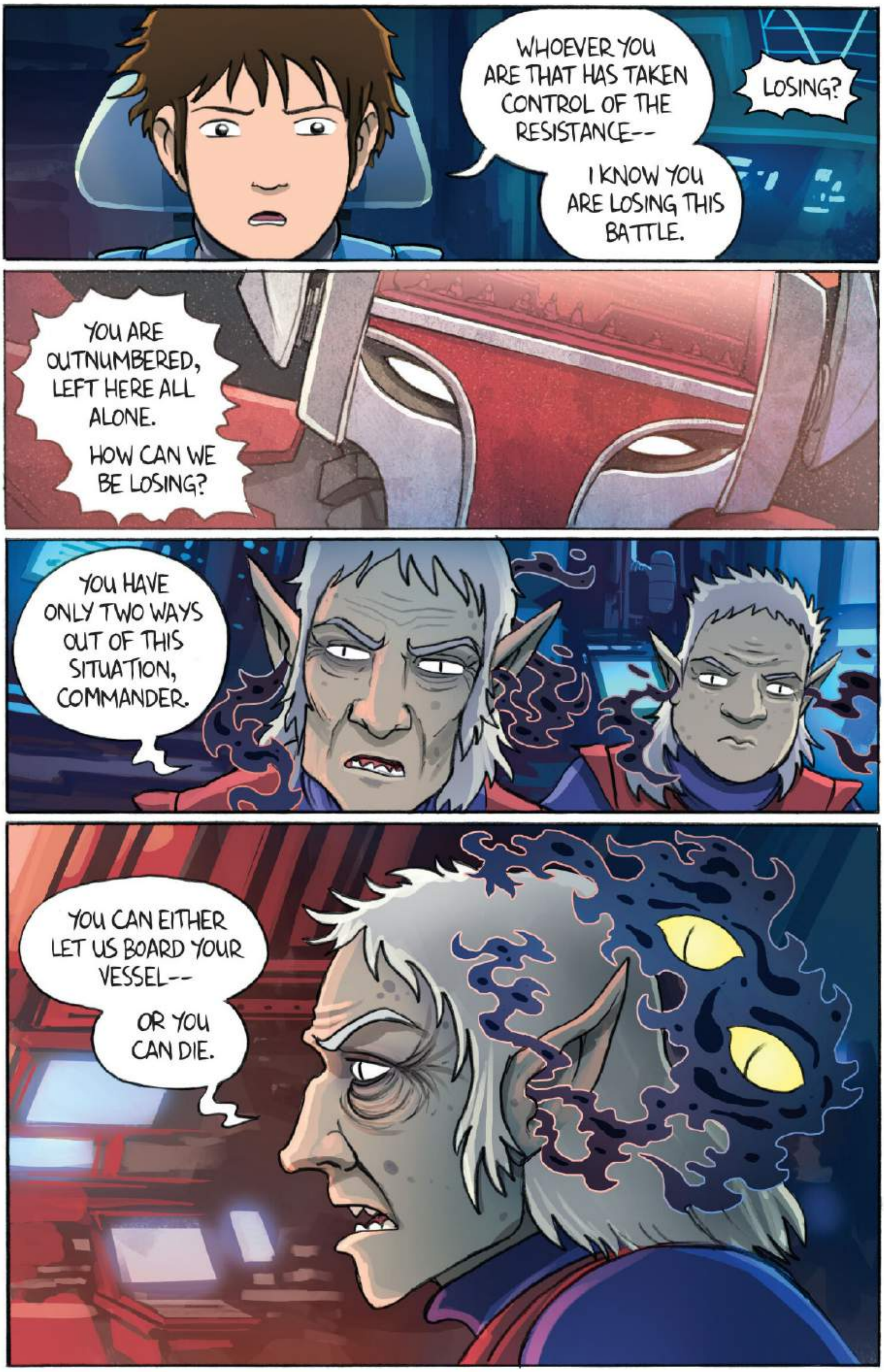

THEN WHY ARE WE FOLLOWING THESE ORDERS, JAIDOH?
BECAUSE THAT IS OUR JOB, COMMANDER.
AS OTHERS WILL TELL YOU.
MOMENTS LIKE THIS ARE WHY I WORK ON AN AMBULANCE AND NOT IN COMMAND.
I TEND TO BE VERY SKEPTICAL OF LEADERSHIP.
SO WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO?
WE FOLLOW ORDERS.
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE. WE GO TO BATTLE WITH THE OTHERS AND HELP TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE.
WE CAN'T WIN A FIGHT AGAINST THE GIANTS.
WE WILL BE DEVASTATED.
LIKE I SAID--
WE HELP TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE.


WELCOME BACK, COMMANDER AND CAPTAIN! DID YOU DELIVER THE SAPLING?
THANKS, BENTO.
THE TREES ARE SAFE.
AT LEAST YOU SECURED US A SMALL VICTORY THERE!
I'LL TAKE ALL THE GOOD NEWS I CAN GET!
WHAT'S THE SCOUTING REPORT ON MOUNT TEPAS?
IT IS AN ACTIVE VOLCANO.
WHILE THE VOLCANO HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF TROUBLE IN THE PAST, I SEE NO EVIDENCE OF IT BEING THE SOURCE OF THE SHADOWS.
I THINK THE GENERAL IS JUST LOOKING FOR A CLEAR TARGET.
WE CAN'T FIGHT THESE FORCES WITHOUT EMILY OR THE OTHER STONEKEEPERS.
WE NEED TO RETURN TO ALLEDIA AND REGROUP.


THE GENERAL IS CALLING IN ON THE BIG MONITOR.
PATCHING HIM THROUGH NOW.
AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, OUR FORCES ON ALLEDIA HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.
WE ARE ALL THE RESISTANCE HAS LEFT.
WITH THE RESOURCES REMAINING, WE WILL WAGE AN ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE ON THE SHADOW BASE.
IF WE CANNOT WIN THE WAR ON ALLEDIA, WE WILL GIVE OUR LIVES TO STOP THE SHADOWS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I AM HONORED TO HAVE SERVED WITH YOU.
AND IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO FIGHT WITH YOU TO THE END.
SSKKSHHH.....
END OF TRANSMISS
YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
CAREFUL.
THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU.


TAKE THE CONTROLS, NAVIN.
STAY ON HIGH ALERT.
IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE--
WHAT HAPPENED TO EMILY?! IS SHE ALIVE?!
I THINK EMILY IS OKAY, MOM.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT HER.
HOW CAN YOU KNOW?!
ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT THAT MAN SAID?!
I JUST HAVE A STRONG FEELING.
WELCOME BACK, COMMANDER.
YOU ARE CURRENTLY EXHIBITING A HIGH LEVEL OF ANXIETY.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP CALM YOU DOWN?
YES, CODY.
GET S.A.M. FIVE READY FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.
CAN I SUGGEST SOOTHING MUSIC INSTEAD?


NAVIN, THIS ROBOT IS AN AMBULANCE.
IT'S NOT DESIGNED TO FIGHT.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHOICE, ALY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, COMMANDER?
SHUT DOWN YOUR DEFENSE SYSTEMS IMMEDIATELY!


WHOEVER YOU ARE THAT HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE RESISTANCE--
I KNOW YOU ARE LOSING THIS BATTLE.
LOSING?
YOU ARE OUTNUMBERED, LEFT HERE ALL ALONE.
HOW CAN WE BE LOSING?
YOU HAVE ONLY TWO WAYS OUT OF THIS SITUATION, COMMANDER.
YOU CAN EITHER LET US BOARD YOUR VESSEL--
OR YOU CAN DIE.


CODY, END OUR CONNECTION TO GENERAL IVUS.
PATCH ME THROUGH TO GENERAL PIL.
BZT!
HEY, PIL!
NAVIN NEEDS TO SPEAK WITH YOU ON THE INTERCOM!
GENERAL, WE HAVE A SHADOW STORM INCOMING!
YOU HEARD THE COMMANDER!
SEAL IT ALL UP!
PSH!
PSH!
PSH!
RELEASE THEM.


I DON'T KNOW HOW WE GET OUT OF THIS.
WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP WITHOUT GIVING THEM A FIGHT.
THE SHADOWS HAVE MADE THEIR WAY INSIDE THE MECH!
NAVIN, GET US OUT OF HERE NOW!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
EVERYONE BRACE FOR IMPACT!
THOOM!!
THOOM!
THOOM!


KTHOOM!!
BOOM!!!


EVACUATE THE CABIN CREW.
I'LL GET THE OTHERS.
MOM!
MOM, ARE YOU HURT?!
COUGH! COUGH!
KLIK!
I'M OKAY, NAVIN.
I'M OKAY.


WE HAVE TO GO NOW, MOM.
YOU SHOULD LEAVE ME HERE, NAVIN.
I KNOW THERE IS NOWHERE FOR US TO GO.
WE HAVE TRAVELED TOO FAR AND FOUGHT TOO MANY BATTLES...
FOR US TO JUST GIVE OURSELVES OVER TO THE DARK.
IF YOU WANT MY FRIENDS, YOU WILL HAVE TO GET THROUGH ME FIRST!

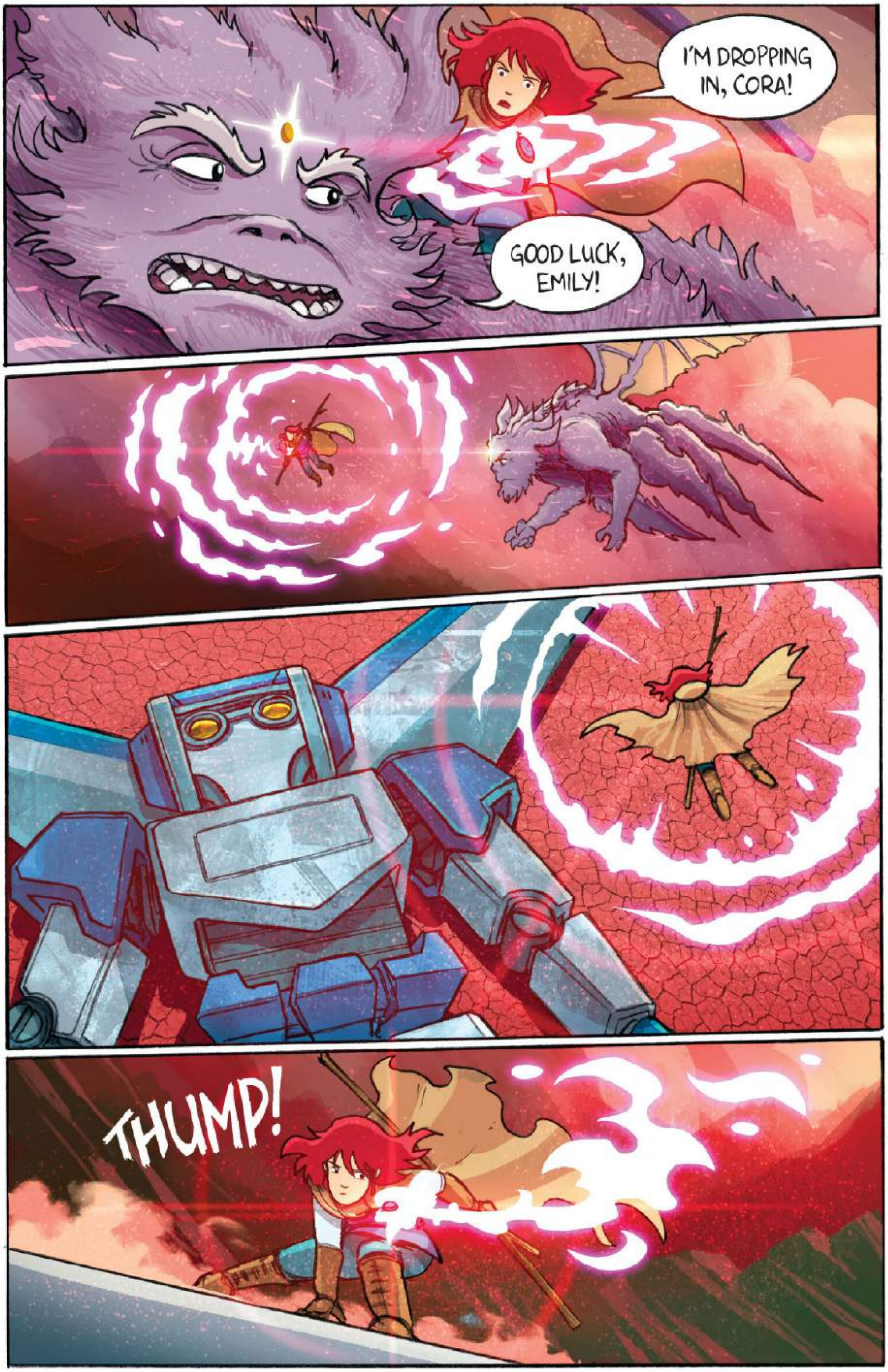

GET AWAY!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
CLOSE YOUR EYES, MOM.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT THEM.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM SO PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR SISTER.
I LOVE YOU BOTH SO MUCH.
I LOVE YOU TOO, MOM.

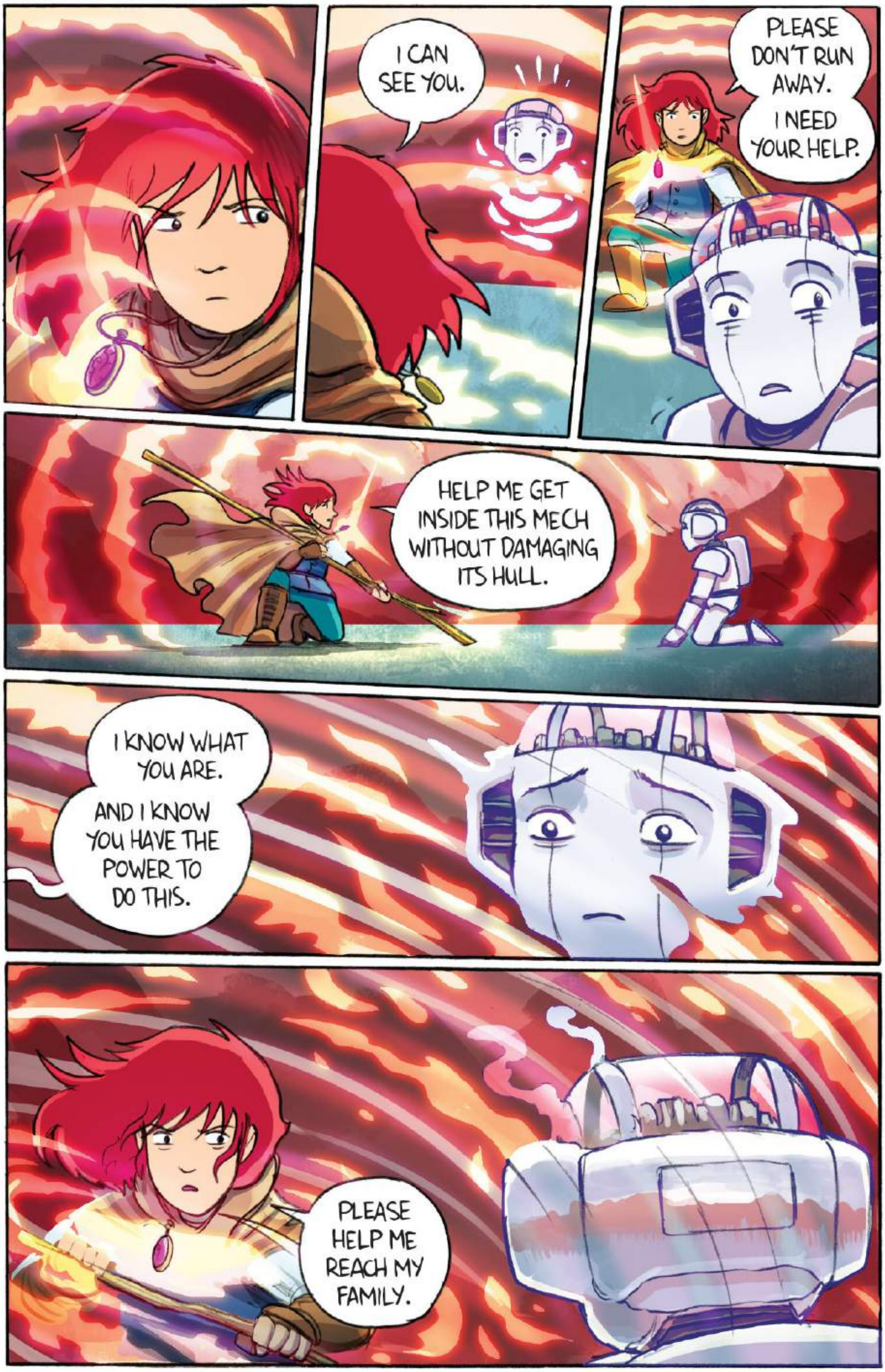









I'M DROPPING IN, CORA!
GOOD LUCK, EMILY!
THUMP!


I CAN SEE YOU.
PLEASE DON'T RUN AWAY.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
HELP ME GET INSIDE THIS MECH WITHOUT DAMAGING ITS HULL.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE.
AND I KNOW YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO THIS.
PLEASE HELP ME REACH MY FAMILY.


THANK YOU.




FFFFFFFWOOOOM!!
SPLORCH!!
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS, EMILY.
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP EVERYONE.
I WAS TRYING TO HELP--
YOU.


REMEMBER, EMILY--
IT WAS YOU WHO REACHED OUT TO ME FOR HELP.
IKOL--
THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL HELP?
YOU POSSESSED MY FAMILY --
DISMANTLED CIVILIZATIONS --
CAUSED NEEDLESS DEATHS --
MANIPULATED OTHERS FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT--
TREATED PEOPLE LIKE LAB RATS FOR YOUR EXPERIMENTS --
NO. YOU ARE NOT HELPFUL, IKOL.


I'M THE ONE YOU WANT, IKOL.
LET MY FAMILY GO.
LEAVE THEM ALONE!
URMPH!
BLECH!!
KOFF! KOFF!


NAVIN!
EM?
EM!
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
I MISSED YOU TOO, NAVIN.
KIDS!
MY BABIES!


I NEVER WANT US TO BE SO FAR APART AGAIN!
UNH.
HUH?
SOMETHING IS FORMING IN THE SHADOWS.
EMILY, PLEASE--


DO NOT FORGET ABOUT ME.


EMILY, DON'T LET HIM IN YOUR HEAD.
HE'S TRYING TO USE YOUR POWER.
DON'T LET HIM.
YOU WERE RIGHT FROM THE START, NAVIN.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO IKOL.
BUT I DID LISTEN TO HIM, AND NOW I HELPED CAUSE ALL THIS TROUBLE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, EMILY?
NAVIN, RETURN TO ALLEDIA AND JOIN THE OTHERS.
HELP THEM FIND PEACE AS THE SHADOWS DISAPPEAR.


HEY, WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO, DON'T DO IT.
I NEED YOU HERE BY MY SIDE!
NAVIN--
GET US ALL BACK TO ALLEDIA SAFELY.
GO, NOW.
EM!!
EMILY?
EMILY, STOP!!
EMILY!
BWOM


FOOOSHHH..
EMILY,
JOIN US.


JOIN US DOWN HERE WHERE IT IS SAFE.
HIDE AWAY WITH US.
DOWN HERE WE CANNOT BE HARMED.
PLEASE--
STAY WITH US.
GRAB!
SAFE.
GIVE IN.
IT IS BETTER DOWN HERE.
STAY WITH US.


SPAK!!
THOOM!!


GASP!
SHOO
OOM!


REMAIN CALM.
FIND YOUR WAY TO THE SURFACE.
THE LIGHT IS BELOW.
THAT MEANS DOWN IS UP.
FOOSH!!
SHOOM!


THOOM!
EMILY? IS THAT YOU?

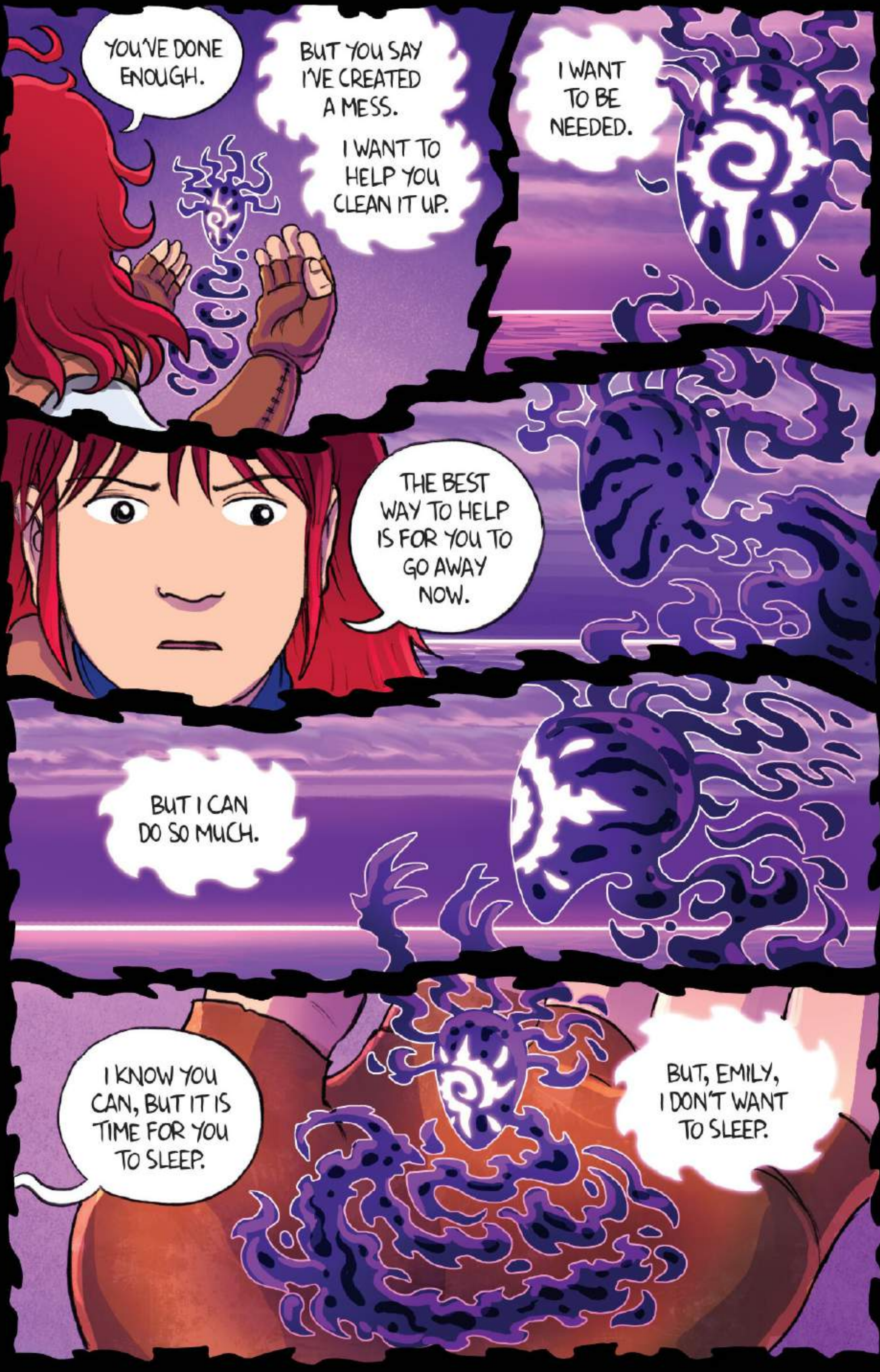

STOP USING MY DAD'S IMAGE.
YOU ARE NOT DAVID HAYES.
MY DAD WAS A GOOD, HONORABLE MAN.
HE ALWAYS DID WHAT WAS RIGHT, EVEN IF IT HURT HIM.
YOU ARE NOTHING LIKE DAVID HAYES.
YOU DO EVERY-THING TO SERVE YOURSELF.
YOU, IKOL, ARE A MONSTER.
NO, EMILY.


IT IS THE UNIVERSE THAT IS MONSTROUS.
AND I SUPPOSE YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN FIX IT.
YES.
YOU ARE AN ANCIENT, SPOILED BRAT.
EMILY, ARE WE FRIENDS?


ARE WE FRIENDS?
REAL FRIENDS DON'T LIE TO EACH OTHER, OR USE EACH OTHER TO GET THINGS THEY DON'T HAVE.
I SEE.
EVERYTHING I DID FOR YOU I DID FOR NOTHING?
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, IKOL.
BUT I WON'T FALL FOR IT ANYMORE.
I AM DONE BEING ANGRY.
I AM DONE FEELING GUILTY.
I AM DONE BEING AFRAID.


I HAVE DECIDED INSTEAD THAT I MUST FORGIVE YOU.
IKOL, I FORGIVE YOU.
FORGIVE ME?
BUT WHY?
BECAUSE I NEED TO FORGIVE MYSELF.
YOU HAVE FED OFF MY ANGER, MY GUILT, MY FEAR.
YOU ARE THE RESULT OF ALL THESE THINGS.
AND I AM GOING TO TAKE THEM BACK NOW.


THE TIME FOR GAMES IS OVER, IKOL.
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO SLEEP.
BUT I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING, EMILY.
I DO NOT WANT TO SLEEP.


YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
BUT YOU SAY I'VE CREATED A MESS.
I WANT TO HELP YOU CLEAN IT UP.
I WANT TO BE NEEDED.
THE BEST WAY TO HELP IS FOR YOU TO GO AWAY NOW.
BUT I CAN DO SO MUCH.
I KNOW YOU CAN, BUT IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO SLEEP.
BUT, EMILY, I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP.

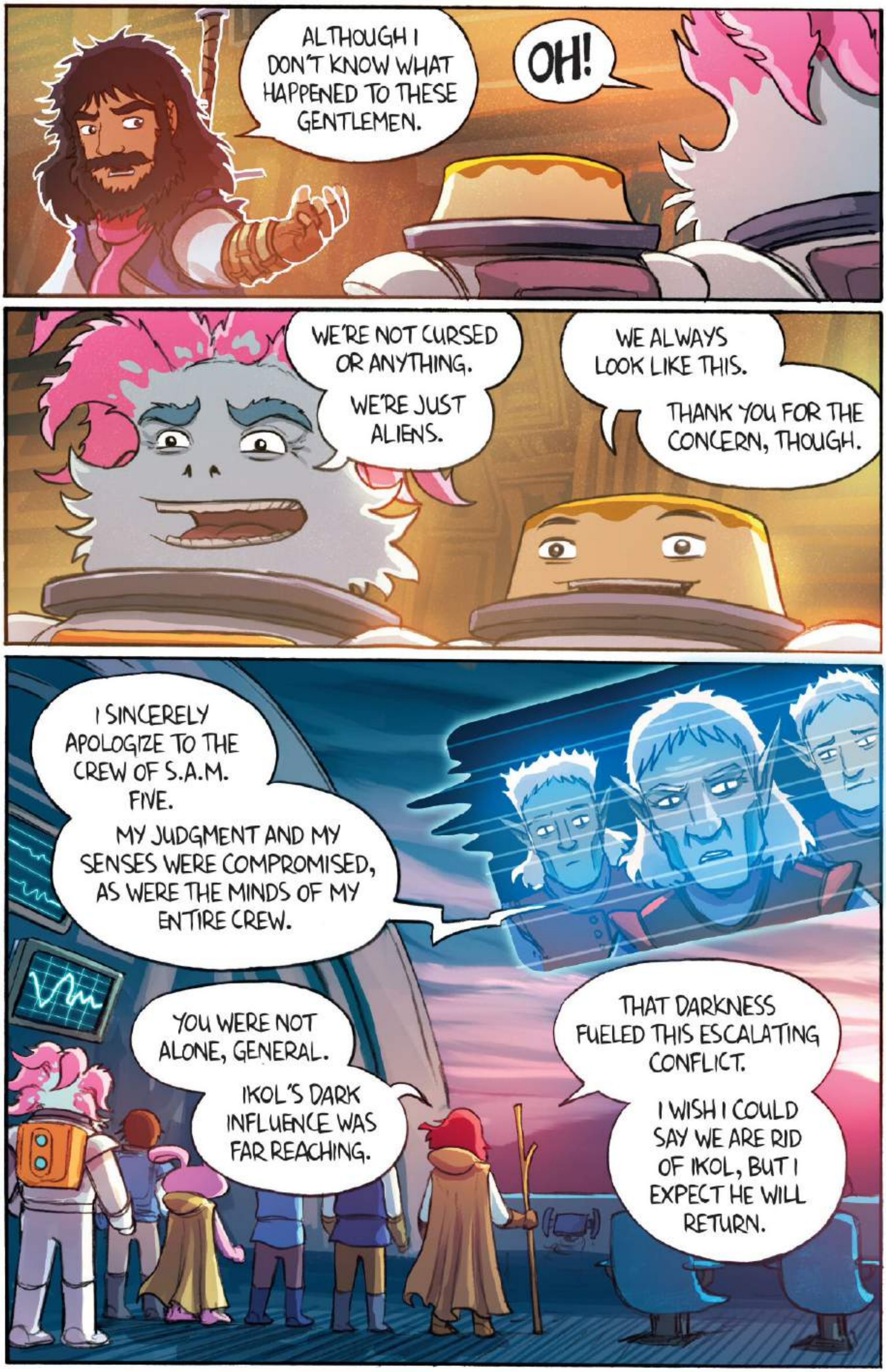

YOU NEVER ANSWERED MY QUESTION.
ARE WE FRIENDS?
PHUUuuu-

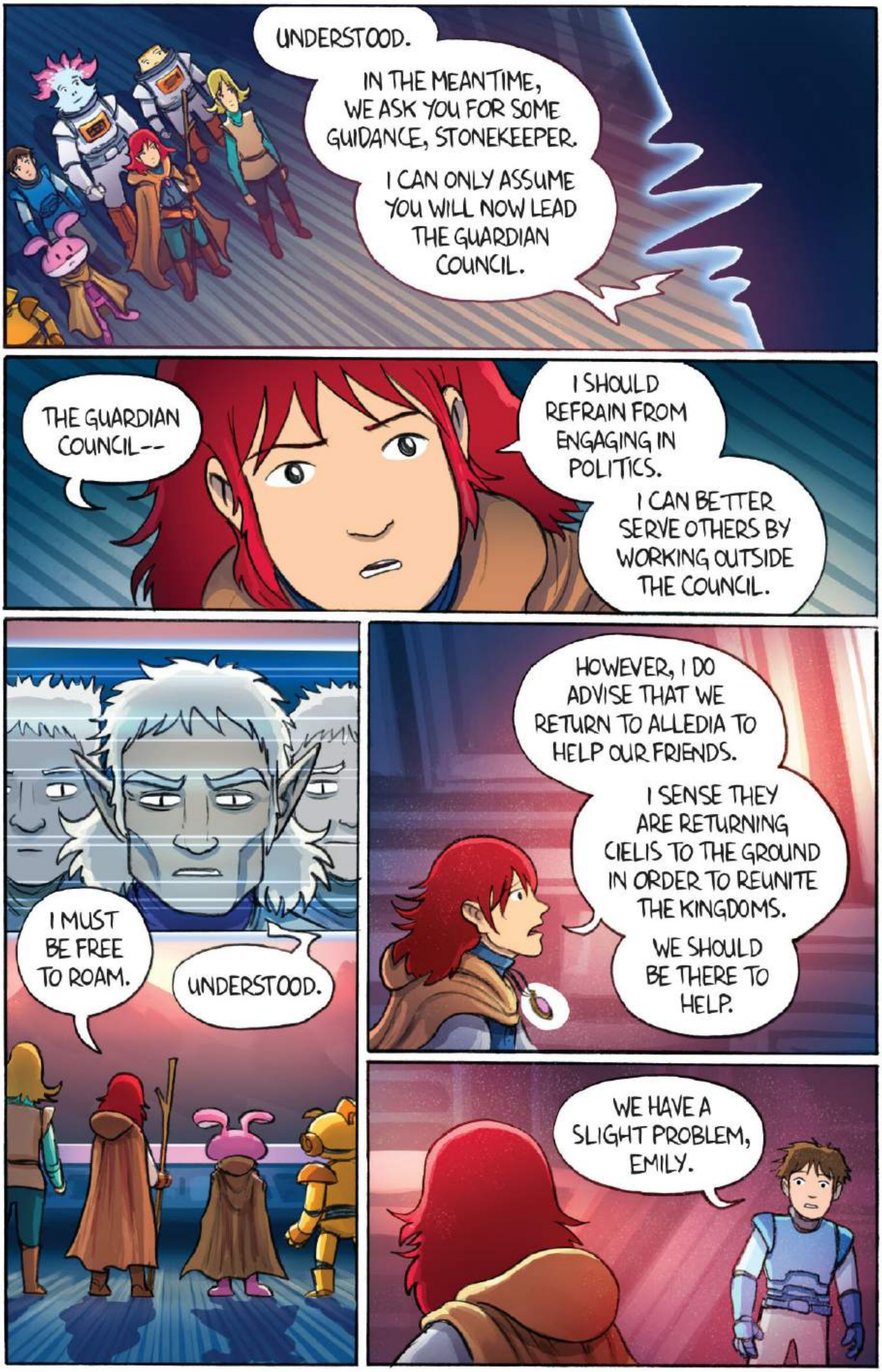



HEY, LOOK!
SHE'S AWAKE!
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
EMILY, WHATEVER YOU DID MADE THE SHADOWS DISAPPEAR.


AFTER YOU JUMPED INTO THE SHADOW CREATURE, EVERY-THING CALMED DOWN.
THE ELVES RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL SELVES.
THE FIGHTING STOPPED!
ANOTHER AMAZING THING HAPPENED.
HEY, IS THAT--
EMILY, YOU LIFTED MY CURSE.
LEON!!

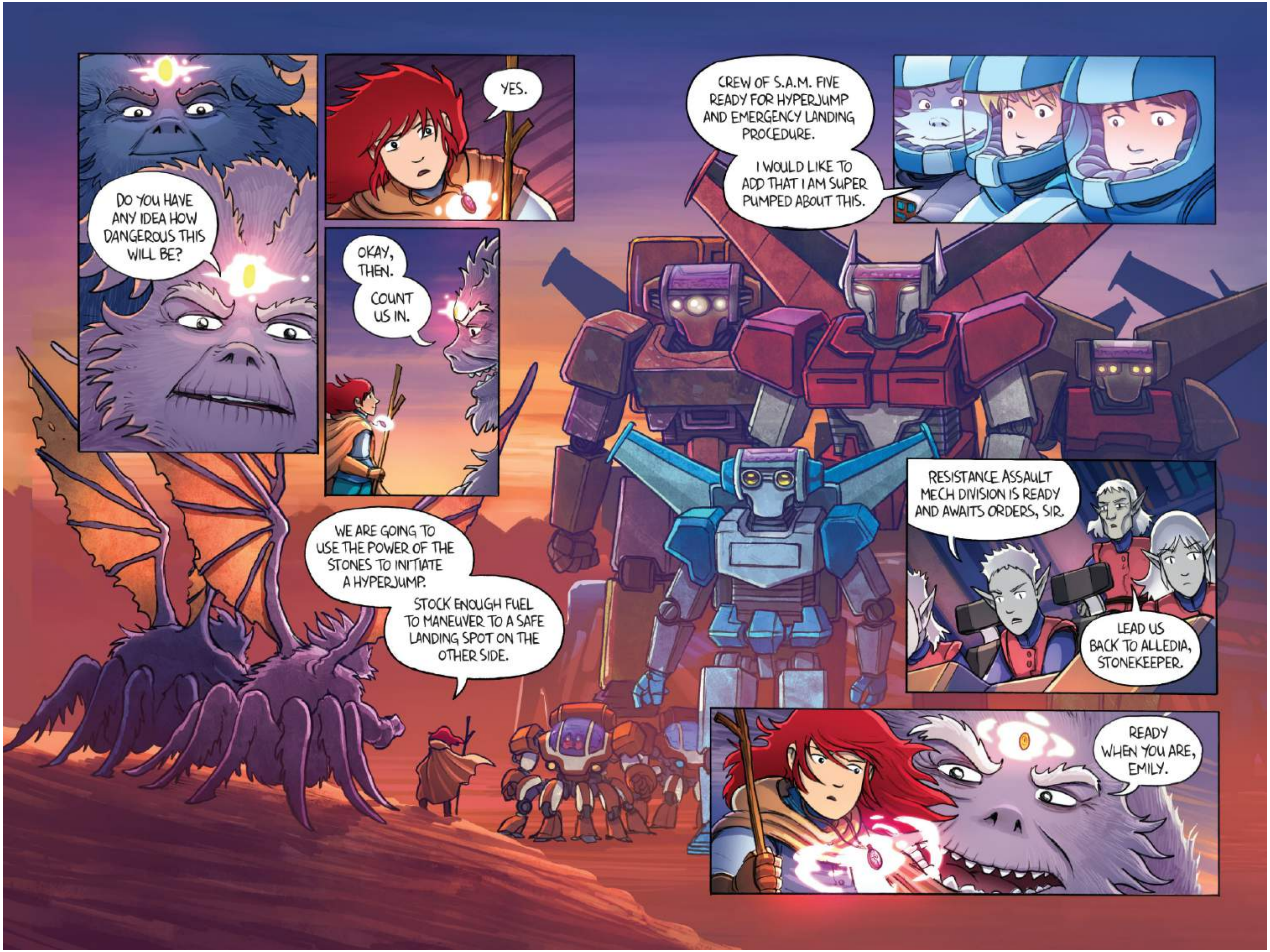

THIS MUST BE HAPPENING IN ALLEDIA, TOO.
THE CURSED ARE RETURNING TO THEIR ORIGINAL SELVES.


ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE GENTLEMEN.
OH!
WE'RE NOT CURSED OR ANYTHING.
WE'RE JUST ALIENS.
WE ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS.
THANK YOU FOR THE CONCERN, THOUGH.
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE TO THE CREW OF S.A.M. FIVE.
MY JUDGMENT AND MY SENSES WERE COMPROMISED, AS WERE THE MINDS OF MY ENTIRE CREW.
YOU WERE NOT ALONE, GENERAL.
IKOL'S DARK INFLUENCE WAS FAR REACHING.
THAT DARKNESS FUELED THIS ESCALATING CONFLICT.
I WISH I COULD SAY WE ARE RID OF IKOL, BUT I EXPECT HE WILL RETURN.



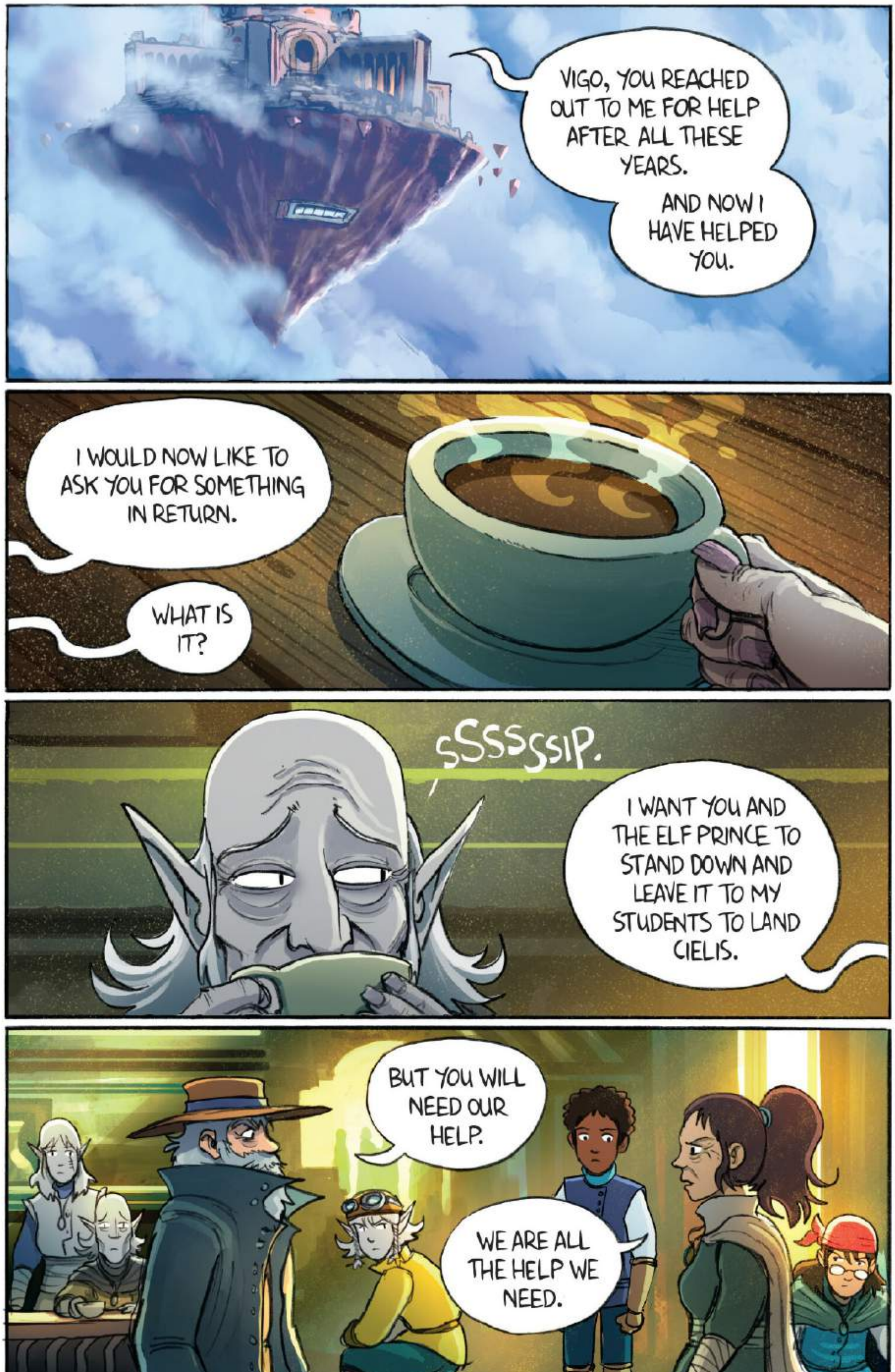
UNDERSTOOD.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE ASK YOU FOR SOME GUIDANCE, STONEKEEPER.
I CAN ONLY ASSUME YOU WILL NOW LEAD THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.
THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL--
I SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN POLITICS.
I CAN BETTER SERVE OTHERS BY WORKING OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL.
I MUST BE FREE TO ROAM.
UNDERSTOOD.
HOWEVER, I DO ADVISE THAT WE RETURN TO ALLEDIA TO HELP OUR FRIENDS.
I SENSE THEY ARE RETURNING CIELIS TO THE GROUND IN ORDER TO REUNITE THE KINGDOMS.
WE SHOULD BE THERE TO HELP.
WE HAVE A SLIGHT PROBLEM, EMILY.


OUR FUEL IS DEPLETED AND THE VEHICLES ARE ALL IN BAD SHAPE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN FLY BACK.
NAVIN, YOU AND THE PILOTS WORRY ABOUT GETTING THE VEHICLES READY.
I CAN PROVIDE THE POWER--
WITH THE HELP OF SOME NEW FRIENDS.
CALA AND CORA--
I WILL NEED YOUR HELP ONE LAST TIME.
OF COURSE, EMILY.
YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE OUR SUPPORT.
WHAT CAN WE HELP YOU WITH?
I NEED YOU BOTH TO HELP ME TRANSPORT THIS ARMY BACK TO ALLEDIA SAFELY.
THE ENTIRE ARMY?
VEHICLES AND EVERYTHING?
YES.


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DANGEROUS THIS WILL BE?
YES.
OKAY, THEN.
COUNT US IN.
WE ARE GOING TO USE THE POWER OF THE STONES TO INITIATE A HYPERJUMP.
STOCK ENOUGH FUEL TO MANEUVER TO A SAFE LANDING SPOT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
CREW OF S.A.M. FIVE READY FOR HYPERJUMP AND EMERGENCY LANDING PROCEDURE.
I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT I AM SUPER PUMPED ABOUT THIS.
RESISTANCE ASSAULT MECH DIVISION IS READY AND AWAITS ORDERS, SIR.
LEAD US BACK TO ALLEDIA, STONEKEEPER.
READY WHEN YOU ARE, EMILY.

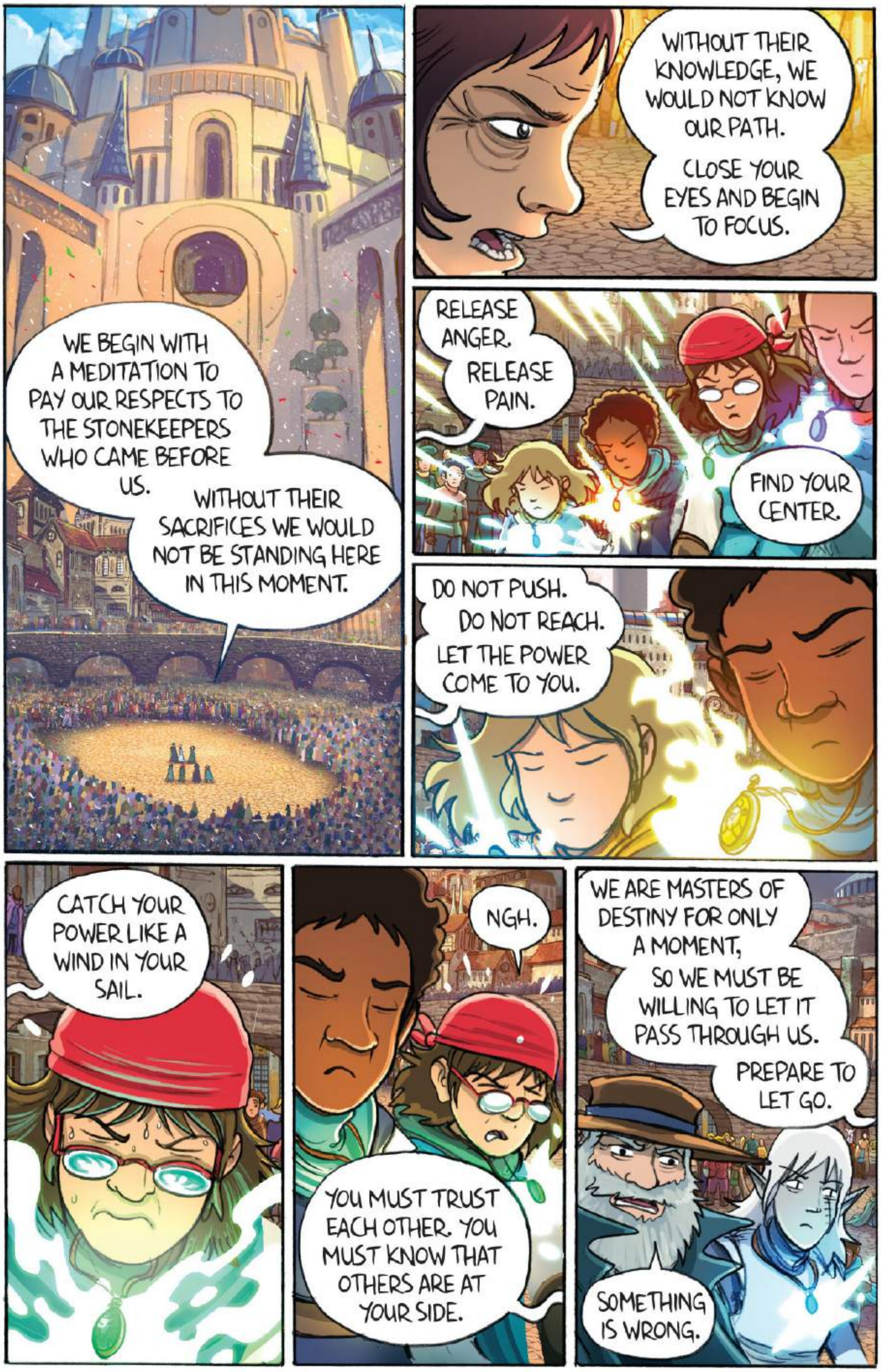

AUXILIARY POWER INCREASING PAST CAPACITY!
AND I THINK IT'S ONLY READING THE STONE POWER!
IT APPEARS THE STONEKEEPERS ARE GENERATING ENOUGH FORCE TO PROPEL US ALL.
I RECOMMEND FASTENING YOUR SEAT BELTS AND HOLDING ON TIGHT.


VWOMMM
SHOOOM!


VIGO, YOU REACHED OUT TO ME FOR HELP AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.
AND NOW I HAVE HELPED YOU.
I WOULD NOW LIKE TO ASK YOU FOR SOMETHING IN RETURN.
WHAT IS IT?
SSSSSSIP.
I WANT YOU AND THE ELF PRINCE TO STAND DOWN AND LEAVE IT TO MY STUDENTS TO LAND CIELIS.
BUT YOU WILL NEED OUR HELP.
WE ARE ALL THE HELP WE NEED.


IF YOU AND TRELLIS RETURN CIELIS TO THE LAND, IT ONLY HELPS REESTABLISH THE OLD WAYS AND WE WILL BE FORGOTTEN.
I DON'T CARE FOR GLORY, RONIN.
YOU HAVE TWO POWERFUL ALLIES AND YOU ASK US TO DO NOTHING?
YES.
DO YOU NOT TRUST US TO HANDLE THIS?
YOUR STUDENTS HAVE BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL,
BUT THEY ARE STILL NEW TO REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE.
SIR, WE HAVE TRAINED COUNTLESS HOURS FOR THIS MOMENT.
RONIN HAS TAUGHT US TO CONTROL OUR GIANT FORMS.
WE ARE READY FOR ANYTHING.
I SINCERELY HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT.
YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR GIANT FORM?
Y-YES. WHO ARE YOU?


I AM SOMEONE WHO BELIEVED--AS YOU DO NOW--THAT I COULD HARNESS THE POWER OF MY GIANT FORM.
LUGER, WE ASKED THEM FOR HELP.
BROTHER, ARE YOU NOT CONCERNED THAT THESE CHILDREN ARE ILL PREPARED TO HANDLE THEIR POWER?
LUGER, IT WAS A CHILD LIKE THEM WHO SAVED BOTH OF OUR LIVES.
WE ASKED THEM TO BE HERE, SO WE NEED TO LET THEM WORK UNIMPEDED.
RONIN, VIGO AND I WILL STAND AT THE READY IN CASE WE ARE NEEDED.
FOR NOW, THE STAGE IS YOURS.
THANK YOU, TRELLIS.


WE BEGIN WITH A MEDITATION TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE STONEKEEPERS WHO CAME BEFORE US.
WITHOUT THEIR SACRIFICES WE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE IN THIS MOMENT.
WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE, WE WOULD NOT KNOW OUR PATH.
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND BEGIN TO FOCUS.
RELEASE ANGER.
RELEASE PAIN.
FIND YOUR CENTER.
DO NOT PUSH.
DO NOT REACH.
LET THE POWER COME TO YOU.
CATCH YOUR POWER LIKE A WIND IN YOUR SAIL.
NGH.
YOU MUST TRUST EACH OTHER. YOU MUST KNOW THAT OTHERS ARE AT YOUR SIDE.
WE ARE MASTERS OF DESTINY FOR ONLY A MOMENT,
SO WE MUST BE WILLING TO LET IT PASS THROUGH US.
PREPARE TO LET GO.
SOMETHING IS WRONG.


LET GO.
LET THE POWER WASH OVER YOU.
BECOME ONE WITH THE STONE'S POWER.
I CAN HELP YOU MAKE THE DISCOMFORT GO AWAY.
WHAT? WHO SAID THAT?
STAY FOCUSED, WEST!
CHANNEL YOUR POWER THROUGH YOUR THOUGHTS, NOT WORDS!
REMAIN CALM.
BEAUTIFUL JOB, BREN!


STAY IN CONTROL AND RETURN TO YOUR POSITIONS!
THEY REALLY ARE IN COMMAND OF THEIR GIANT FORMS!
HOW DID YOU DO IT, RONIN?
BY GIVING THEM THE SPACE THEY NEED TO TRUST THEMSELVES.
WITHOUT BELIEF IN THEIR OWN ABILITIES, THEY LOSE CONTROL TO FORCES THAT SEEK TO TAKE AWAY THEIR AGENCY.
I CONSIDERED MYSELF TO BE AMONG THOSE FORCES. THEY KNOW THAT I CANNOT DO THIS FOR THEM.
AS TEACHERS, WE MUST LEARN WHEN TO STEP ASIDE.
HM?
WEST?


THE OTHERS DO NOT APPRECIATE YOUR TALENT. THEY DO NOT SEE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.
NOT LIKE I DO, WESTLEY.
I SEE YOU.
WE CAN SHOW THEM WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF, AND THEY WILL NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOU AGAIN!
WEST!
DO NOT PUSH YOURSELF OVER THE EDGE!
STAND DOWN AND REGROUP!
GIVE IN TO THE STONE'S POWER.
THE OTHERS DO NOT CARE ABOUT YOU--
NOT LIKE I DO.
GIVE ME CONTROL.
NO--
NO--
HELP ME!!!


STAND UP, WEST!
RONIN! HELP ME!!!
WE CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY BACK--
BUT YOU MUST TRY TO SUPPRESS THAT POWER!


GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, WEST!
DON'T LET THE POWER OUT OF YOUR GRASP!
BREN--
I CAN'T! SOMETHING IS HERE WITH ME!
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH, WEST.
NOT LIKE I DO.
WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE, WEST!
JUST HOLD TIGHT!
MY STONE IS SAYING SOME CREEPY STUFF!
MAKE IT STOP!
AGH!
IT'S IKOL.


GIVE IN TO ME, WEST.
AND YOU WILL HAVE ULTIMATE POWER IN RETURN.
STOP!!
NGH!
HELP!
PLEASE...
HELP...
IKOL--
LEAVE HIM ALONE.
TAKE ME INSTEAD.
WHAT IS HE DOING?
URP.
ACK!

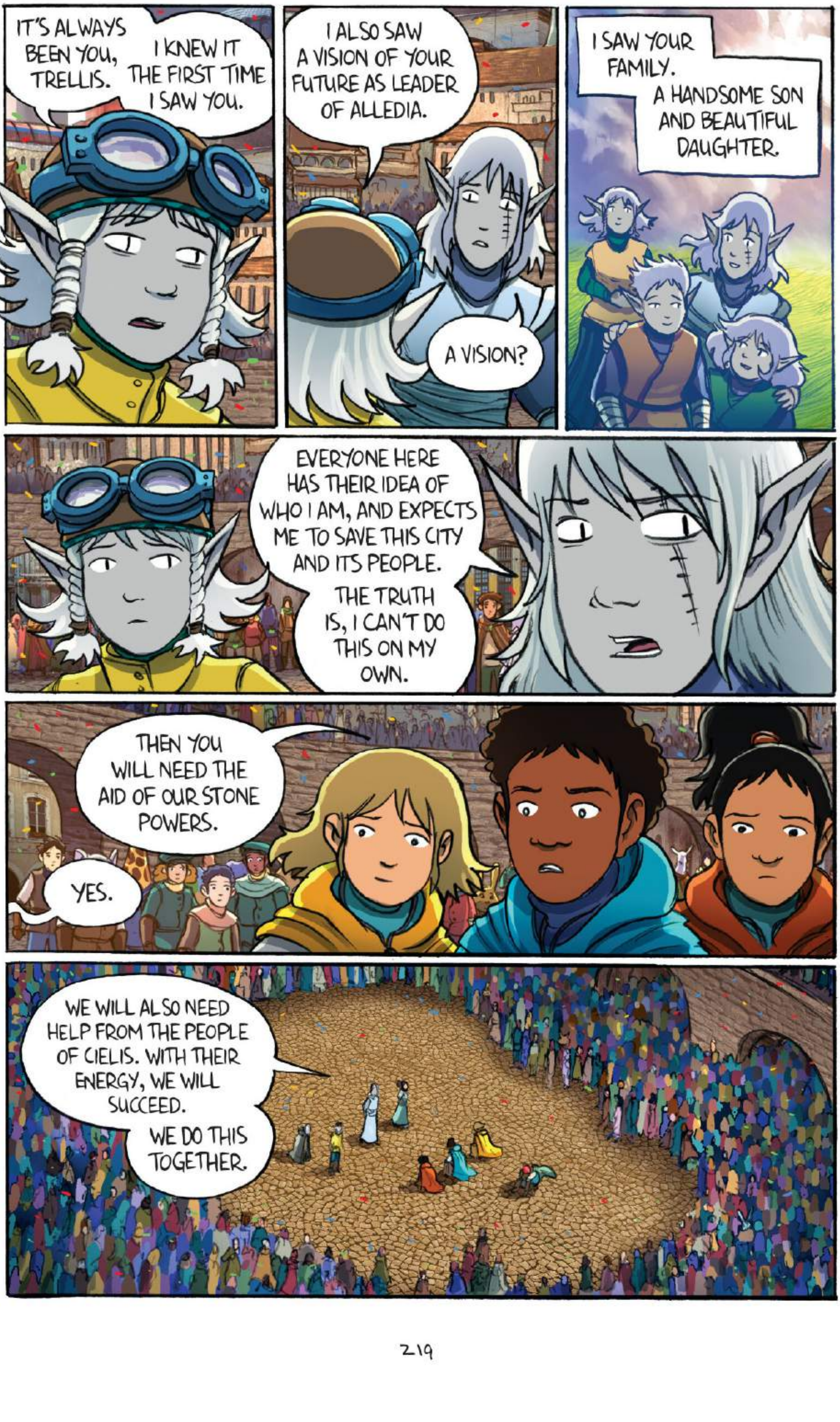

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS, VIGO?
I AM NOT AFRAID.
ARE YOU?
UNGH!


VIGO, NO!!!
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEONE TELL ME-- WHAT HAPPENED?!


TRELLIS--
WHAT WAS THAT?
IKOL.
A MALEVOLENT FORCE THAT USES OUR EMOTIONS AGAINST US.
YOU MUST KEEP YOUR GUARD UP AROUND HIM.
VIGO HAS GIVEN HIS LIFE TO BUY US TIME.
WE MUST NOT WASTE IT.
I WILL GUIDE CIELIS BACK TO ITS PROPER LOCATION, BUT I WILL NEED YOUR HELP AND THE HELP OF EVERYONE HERE IN THE CITY.
EVERY CITIZEN, INCLUDING THE CHILDREN, WILL HELP US LAND THE CITY SAFELY.
WE ARE GOING TO DO THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY. THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND WORKING TOGETHER.
WE WILL NOT LEAN ON UNCONTROLLABLE POWER, SO I ASK YOU ALL TO REVERT TO YOUR NATURAL SELVES.

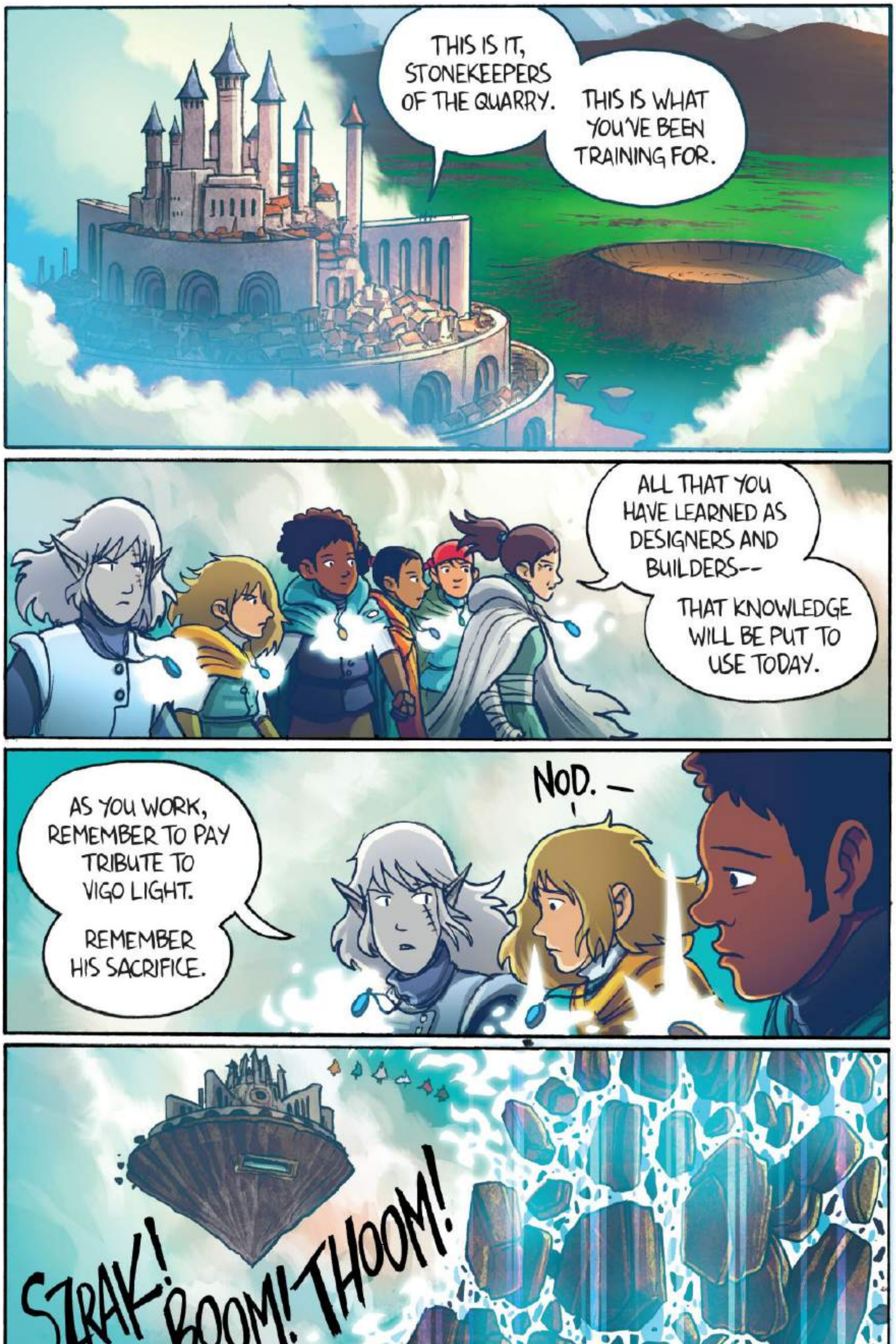

YOU NEED NOT TRY TO BE SOMETHING YOU ARE NOT.
YOUR TRUE POWER AS A STONEKEEPER WON'T BE DEFINED BY YOUR SHOW OF STRENGTH--
BUT BY THE QUALITY OF YOUR INTELLECT AND CHARACTER.
WE MUST WALK AWAY FROM POWER WE DO NOT NEED.
WE USE FORCE ONLY AS A LAST RESORT, NOT A FIRST OPTION.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ADDRESS ME THAT WAY, BREN.
I AM NOT THE KING OF THE ELVES.
I KNOW THAT, YOUR MAJESTY.
I HAVE STUDIED THE OLD STORIES WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE.
WE ARE NOW A PART OF THE LEGEND OF THE ELVEN KING.

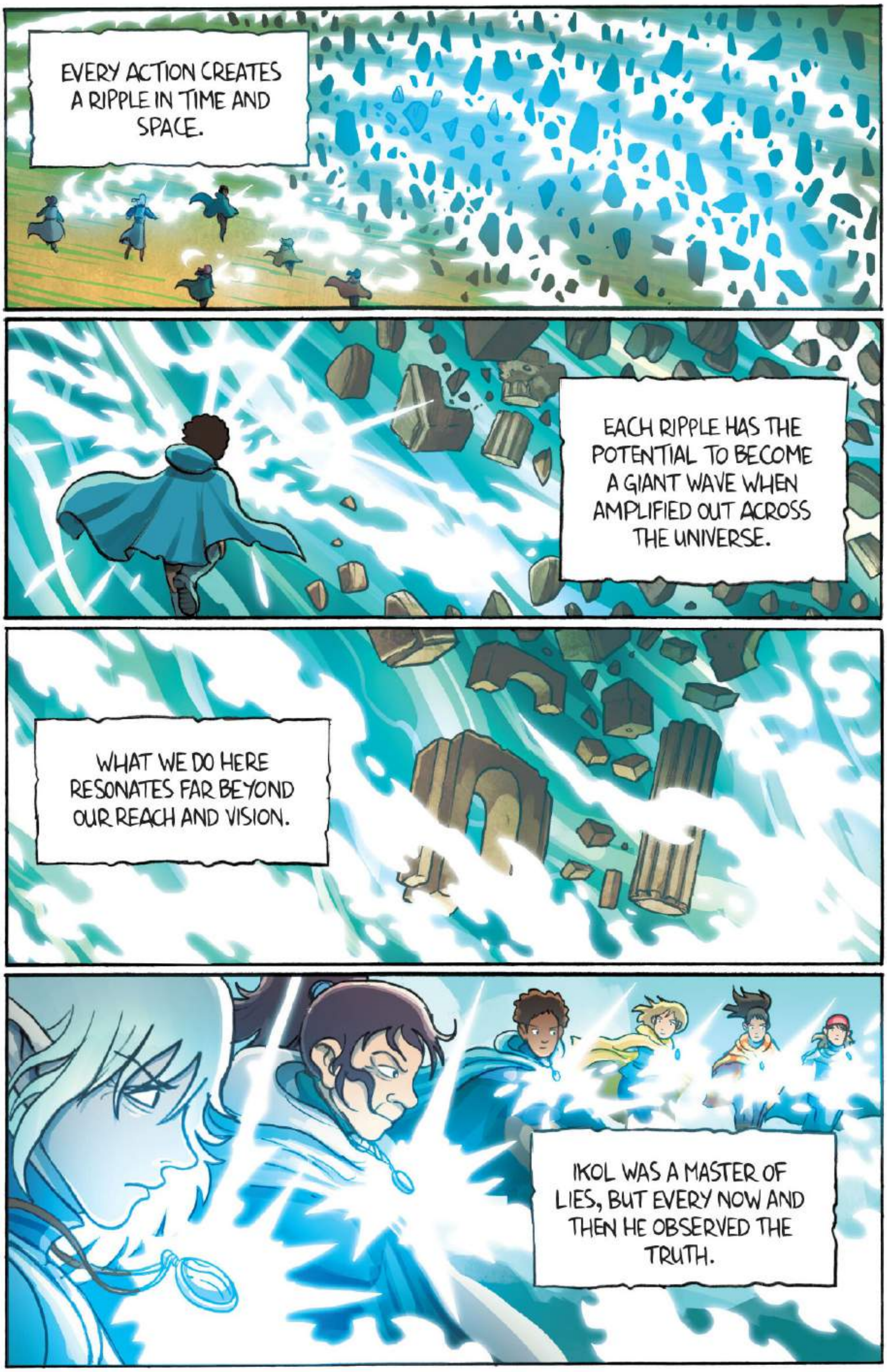

YOU MAY NO LONGER BE THE KING OF VALCOR OR RULER OF THE ELVES, BUT YOU WILL LEAD US HERE IN CIELIS AS THE ELDER STONEKEEPER OF THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.


IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU, TRELLIS.
I KNEW IT THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.
I ALSO SAW A VISION OF YOUR FUTURE AS LEADER OF ALLEDIA.
A VISION?
I SAW YOUR FAMILY.
A HANDSOME SON AND BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER.
EVERYONE HERE HAS THEIR IDEA OF WHO I AM, AND EXPECTS ME TO SAVE THIS CITY AND ITS PEOPLE.
THE TRUTH IS, I CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN.
THEN YOU WILL NEED THE AID OF OUR STONE POWERS.
YES.
WE WILL ALSO NEED HELP FROM THE PEOPLE OF CIELIS. WITH THEIR ENERGY, WE WILL SUCCEED.
WE DO THIS TOGETHER.


THIS IS THE END OF AN ERA, RICO--
AND ALSO THE END OF MY BUSINESS PLANS.
HOW WILL WE SELL VACATIONS TO THIS PLACE IF ANYONE CAN COME HERE?
I THINK THIS IS A REALLY GOOD THING FOR ALLEDIA, ENZO.
WE WILL FIND OTHER WAYS TO MAKE A LIVING.
I SUPPOSE WE WILL HAVE A BIGGER BASE OF CUSTOMERS.
MAYBE BUSINESS WON'T BE SO BAD.
WE'LL JUST MAKE IT WORK OUT!


DID IT JUST GET REALLY BREEZY?
I FEEL COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN!
ENZO, LOOK!
OUR CURSE HAS BEEN LIFTED!
HUH?
WHUT!
I HAVE A NOSE!!
I AM NOT A HUGE CAT!
BROTHER, WE ARE BACK!
I WISH MAMA AND PAPA COULD HAVE SEEN US LIKE THIS, ENZO.
THEY ARE WATCHING US, RICO.
THEY KNOW WE ARE ALL RIGHT.


THIS IS IT, STONEKEEPERS OF THE QUARRY.
THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR.
ALL THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AS DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS--
THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL BE PUT TO USE TODAY.
AS YOU WORK, REMEMBER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO VIGO LIGHT.
REMEMBER HIS SACRIFICE.
NOD.
SZRAK! BOOM! THOOM!

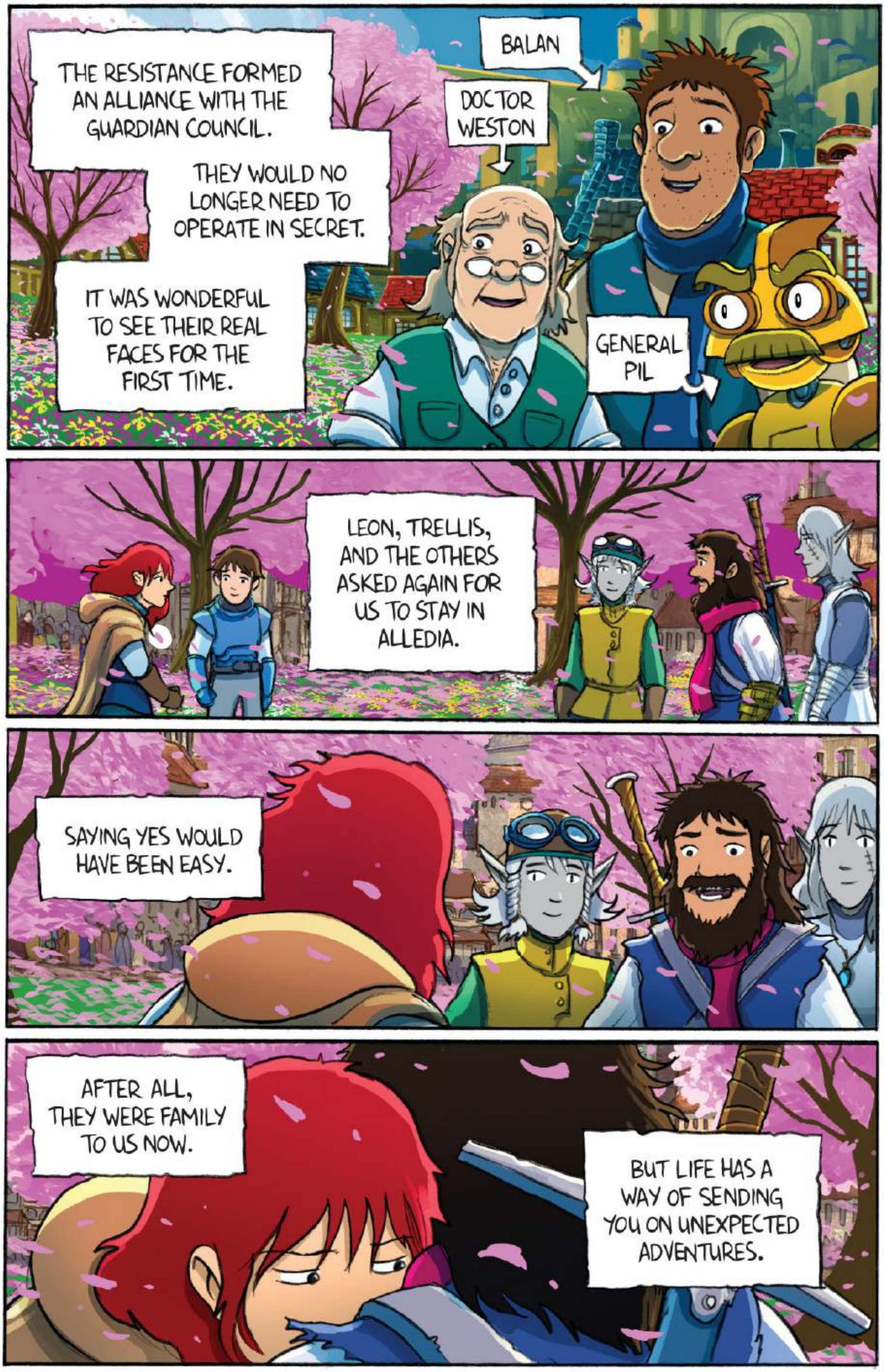

EVERY ACTION CREATES A RIPPLE IN TIME AND SPACE.
EACH RIPPLE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A GIANT WAVE WHEN AMPLIFIED OUT ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.
WHAT WE DO HERE RESONATES FAR BEYOND OUR REACH AND VISION.
IKOL WAS A MASTER OF LIES, BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN HE OBSERVED THE TRUTH.

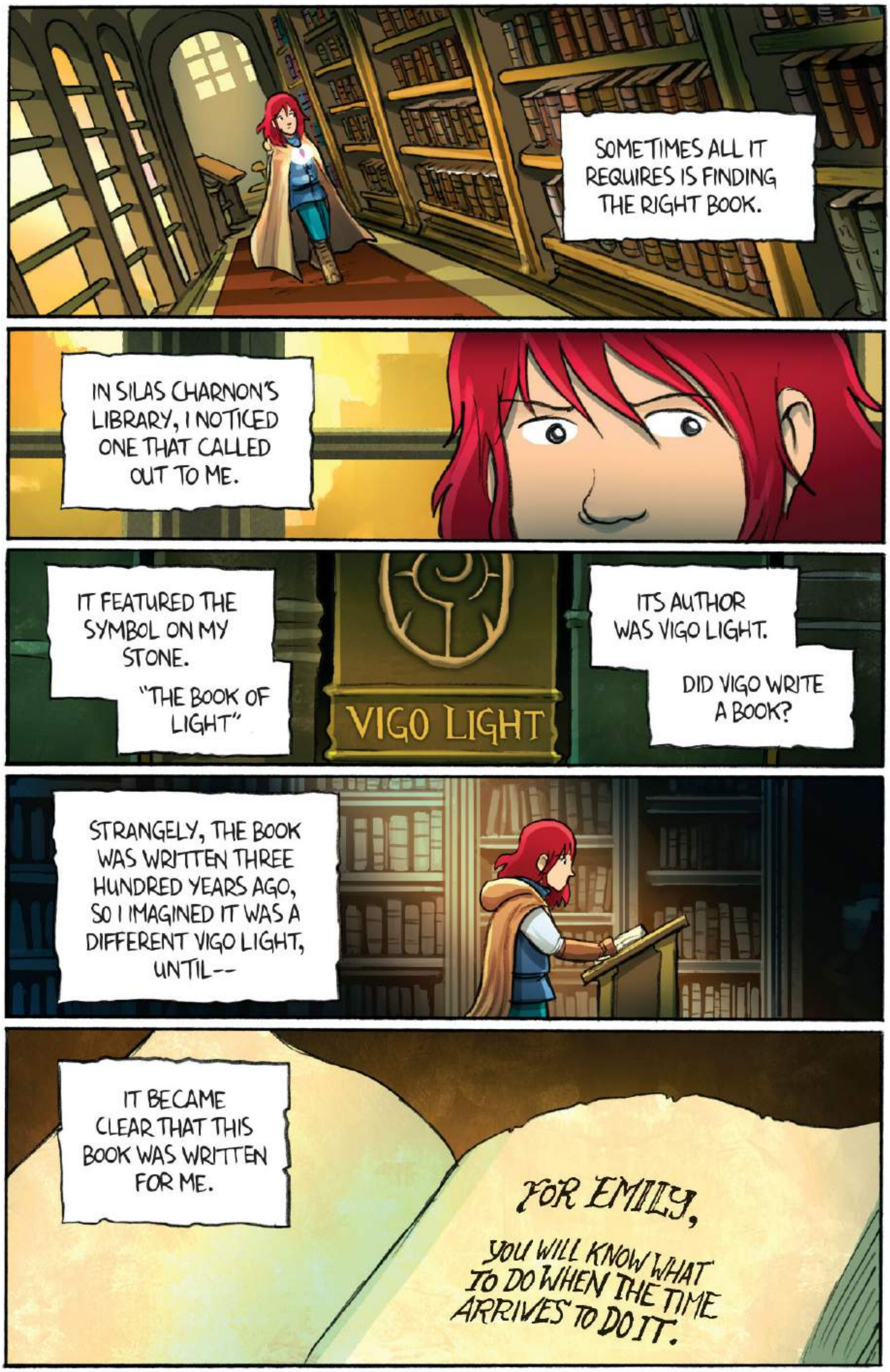

HE USED THESE TRUTHS TO MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT HE AND I WERE ALONE.
THAT THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE RESTED UPON OUR SHOULDERS.
BUT THIS WAS NEVER TRUE.
WE ARE ALL A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE--
A PICTURE THAT PAINTS ITSELF.
NO ONE PERSON OR CREATURE OR THING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FATE OF ALL OTHERS.
THE BIGGER PICTURE REMAINS OUT OF OUR CONTROL.

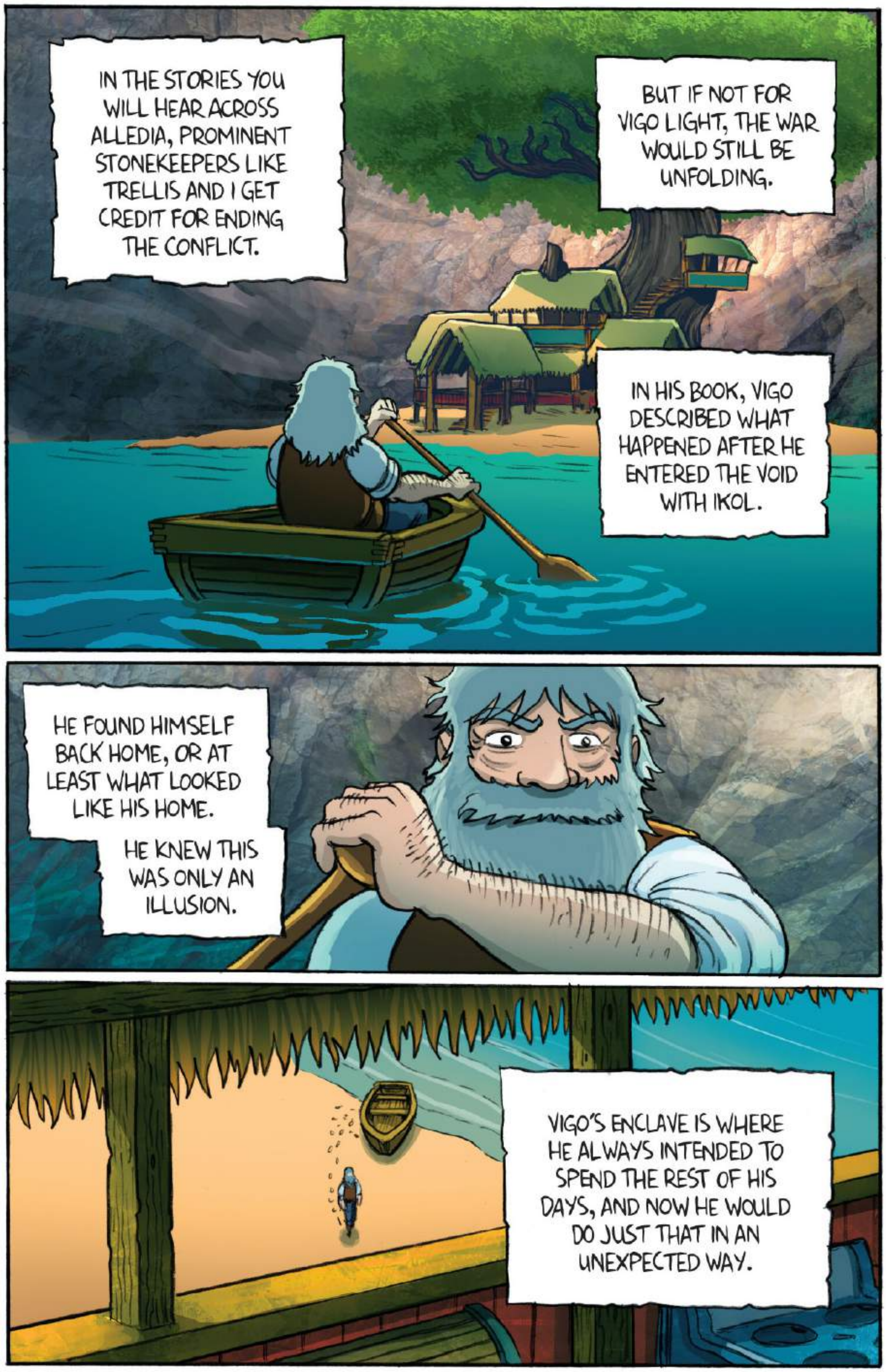

EVERY ONE OF US HAS A PART TO PLAY.
EVEN WHEN WE ARE WORLDS APART--
OR SEPARATED BY TIME AND KNOWLEDGE.
WE ARE ALL A PART OF THE PICTURE.
MY FRIENDS ON ALLEDIA BEGAN THE LONG JOURNEY OF BRINGING THEIR WORLD BACK TOGETHER.


TRELLIS DEVELOPED INTO THE LEADER HE WAS DESTINED TO BE.
WITH RONIN'S DISCIPLES FROM THE QUARRY BY HIS SIDE, TRELLIS WOULD RULE OVER MANY YEARS OF PEACE IN ALLEDIA.
TRELLIS WOULD ASK ME TO JOIN THEM.
AS MUCH AS I WANTED TO CONTINUE MY JOURNEY WITH THE STONEKEEPERS--
I FELT THAT I COULD NOT ACCEPT.
IT WAS A GUT FEELING.
I KNEW MY WORK WOULD CONTINUE, BUT NOT HERE ON ALLEDIA.
I KNEW THIS WOULD MARK THE END OF MY FIRST OFF-WORLD ADVENTURE.

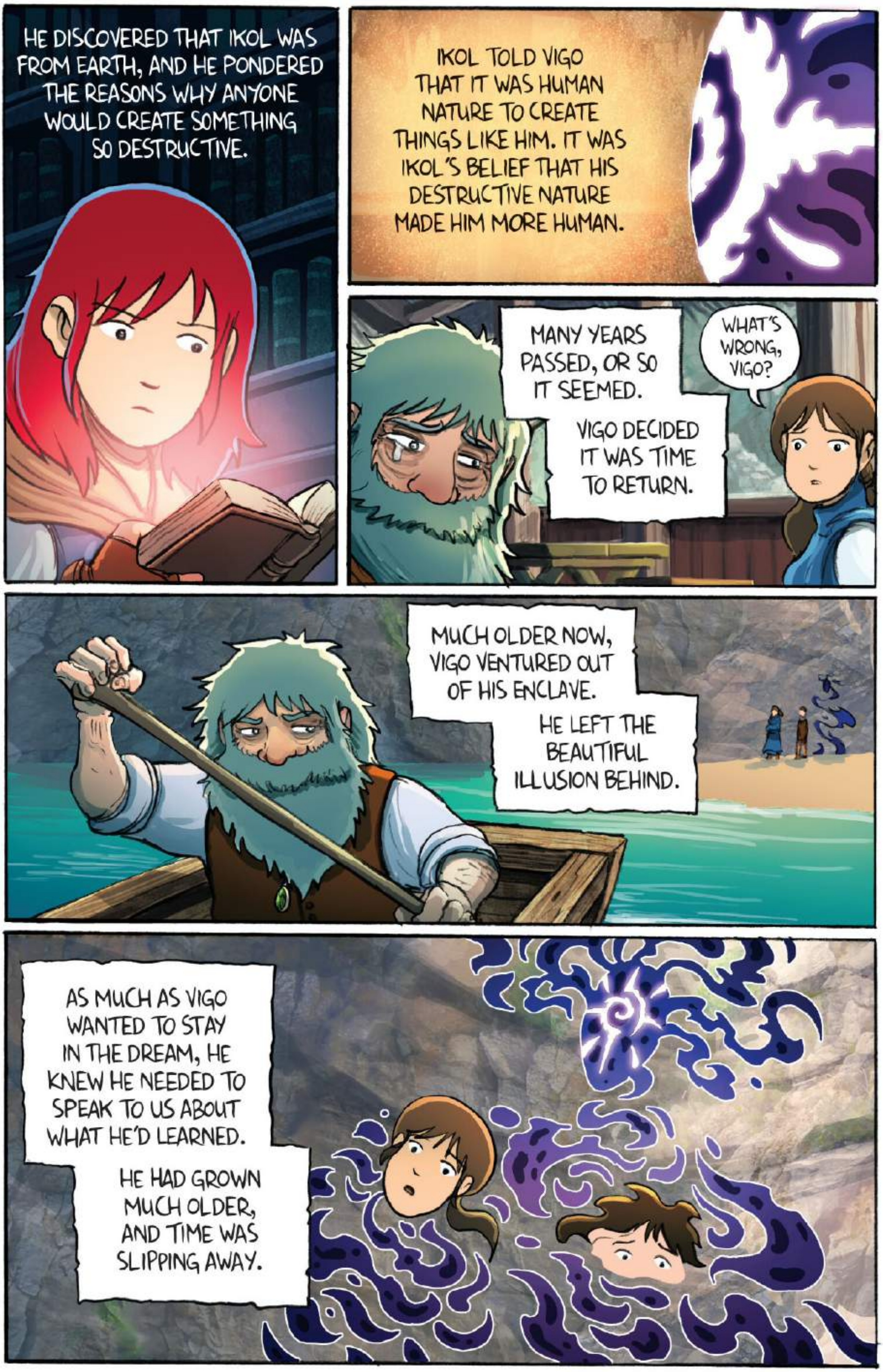

AFTER SPENDING FAR TOO MANY YEARS HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDS, THE CITY OF CIELIS HAD FINALLY RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION.
THE CITY IN THE SKY HAD RETURNED HOME.
I COULD SENSE THAT IT WAS TIME FOR MY FAMILY TO DO THE SAME.
TRELLIS AND THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL WOULD HAVE PLENTY OF HELP--
WITH ALLIES LIKE KING GABILAN AND MAYOR RIVA ASH BY THEIR SIDE.
THE RETURN OF CIELIS SERVED AS A BEACON OF HOPE.
A SIGN THAT TRUE LEADERS HAD RETURNED TO ALLEDIA.
I INTRODUCED THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL TO CALA AND CORA, WHO WERE QUICKLY EMBRACED AS NEW MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BECOME THE SUBJECT OF COUNTLESS LEGENDS AND TALL TALES.


THE RESISTANCE FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.
THEY WOULD NO LONGER NEED TO OPERATE IN SECRET.
IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THEIR REAL FACES FOR THE FIRST TIME.
BALAN
DOCTOR WESTON
GENERAL PIL
LEON, TRELLIS, AND THE OTHERS ASKED AGAIN FOR US TO STAY IN ALLEDIA.
SAYING YES WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY.
AFTER ALL, THEY WERE FAMILY TO US NOW.
BUT LIFE HAS A WAY OF SENDING YOU ON UNEXPECTED ADVENTURES.

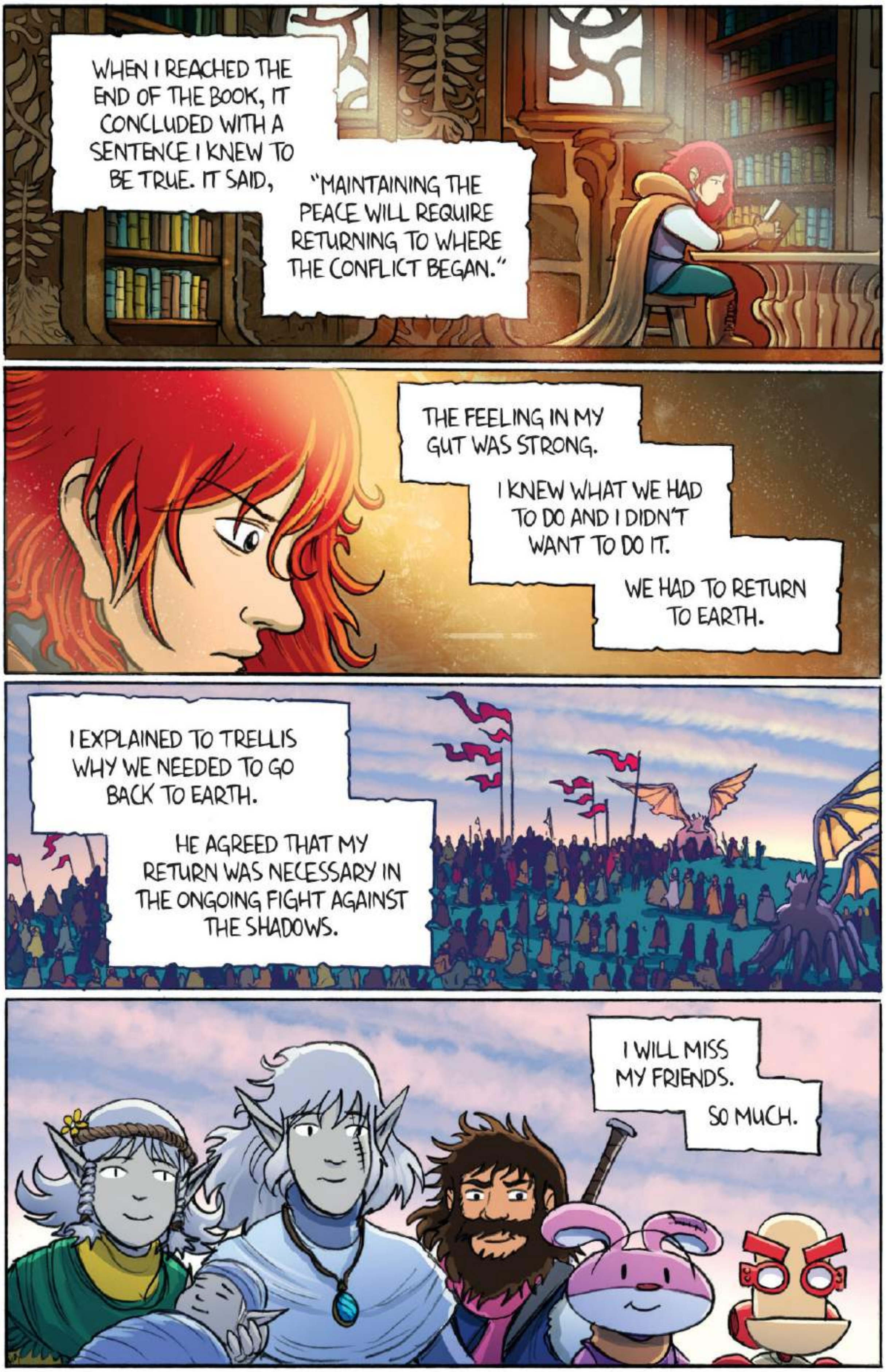

SOMETIMES ALL IT REQUIRES IS FINDING THE RIGHT BOOK.
IN SILAS CHARNON'S LIBRARY, I NOTICED ONE THAT CALLED OUT TO ME.
IT FEATURED THE SYMBOL ON MY STONE.
"THE BOOK OF LIGHT"
VIGO LIGHT
ITS AUTHOR WAS VIGO LIGHT.
DID VIGO WRITE A BOOK?
STRANGELY, THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, SO I IMAGINED IT WAS A DIFFERENT VIGO LIGHT, UNTIL--
IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THIS BOOK WAS WRITTEN FOR ME.
FOR EMILY,
YOU WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN THE TIME ARRIVES TO DO IT.


IN THE STORIES YOU WILL HEAR ACROSS ALLEDIA, PROMINENT STONEKEEPERS LIKE TRELLIS AND I GET CREDIT FOR ENDING THE CONFLICT.
BUT IF NOT FOR VIGO LIGHT, THE WAR WOULD STILL BE UNFOLDING.
IN HIS BOOK, VIGO DESCRIBED WHAT HAPPENED AFTER HE ENTERED THE VOID WITH IKOL.
HE FOUND HIMSELF BACK HOME, OR AT LEAST WHAT LOOKED LIKE HIS HOME.
HE KNEW THIS WAS ONLY AN ILLUSION.
VIGO'S ENCLAVE IS WHERE HE ALWAYS INTENDED TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, AND NOW HE WOULD DO JUST THAT IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY.


IKOL WAS WAITING FOR HIM.
VIGO AND IKOL BEGAN TO PLAY A GAME OF CHESS THAT WOULD NEVER END.
OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, VIGO STUDIED IKOL. WHAT HE LEARNED HE DETAILED IN HIS BOOK.
VIGO WAS JOINED BY HIS WIFE, MIRIAM, AND HIS SON, DANIEL.
HE WONDERED FOR A MOMENT IF HE WAS IN THE AFTERLIFE.
DAD!
VIGO?!
HE KNEW IT WAS AN ILLUSION, BUT HE ACCEPTED IT AS HIS REALITY.
HE DID NOT WANT TO BE ANYWHERE ELSE.
WHILE VIGO STUDIED IKOL, SO TOO DID IKOL STUDY HIM.


HE DISCOVERED THAT IKOL WAS FROM EARTH, AND HE PONDERED THE REASONS WHY ANYONE WOULD CREATE SOMETHING SO DESTRUCTIVE.
IKOL TOLD VIGO THAT IT WAS HUMAN NATURE TO CREATE THINGS LIKE HIM. IT WAS IKOL'S BELIEF THAT HIS DESTRUCTIVE NATURE MADE HIM MORE HUMAN.
MANY YEARS PASSED, OR SO IT SEEMED.
VIGO DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO RETURN.
WHAT'S WRONG, VIGO?
MUCH OLDER NOW, VIGO VENTURED OUT OF HIS ENCLAVE.
HE LEFT THE BEAUTIFUL ILLUSION BEHIND.
AS MUCH AS VIGO WANTED TO STAY IN THE DREAM, HE KNEW HE NEEDED TO SPEAK TO US ABOUT WHAT HE'D LEARNED.
HE HAD GROWN MUCH OLDER, AND TIME WAS SLIPPING AWAY.

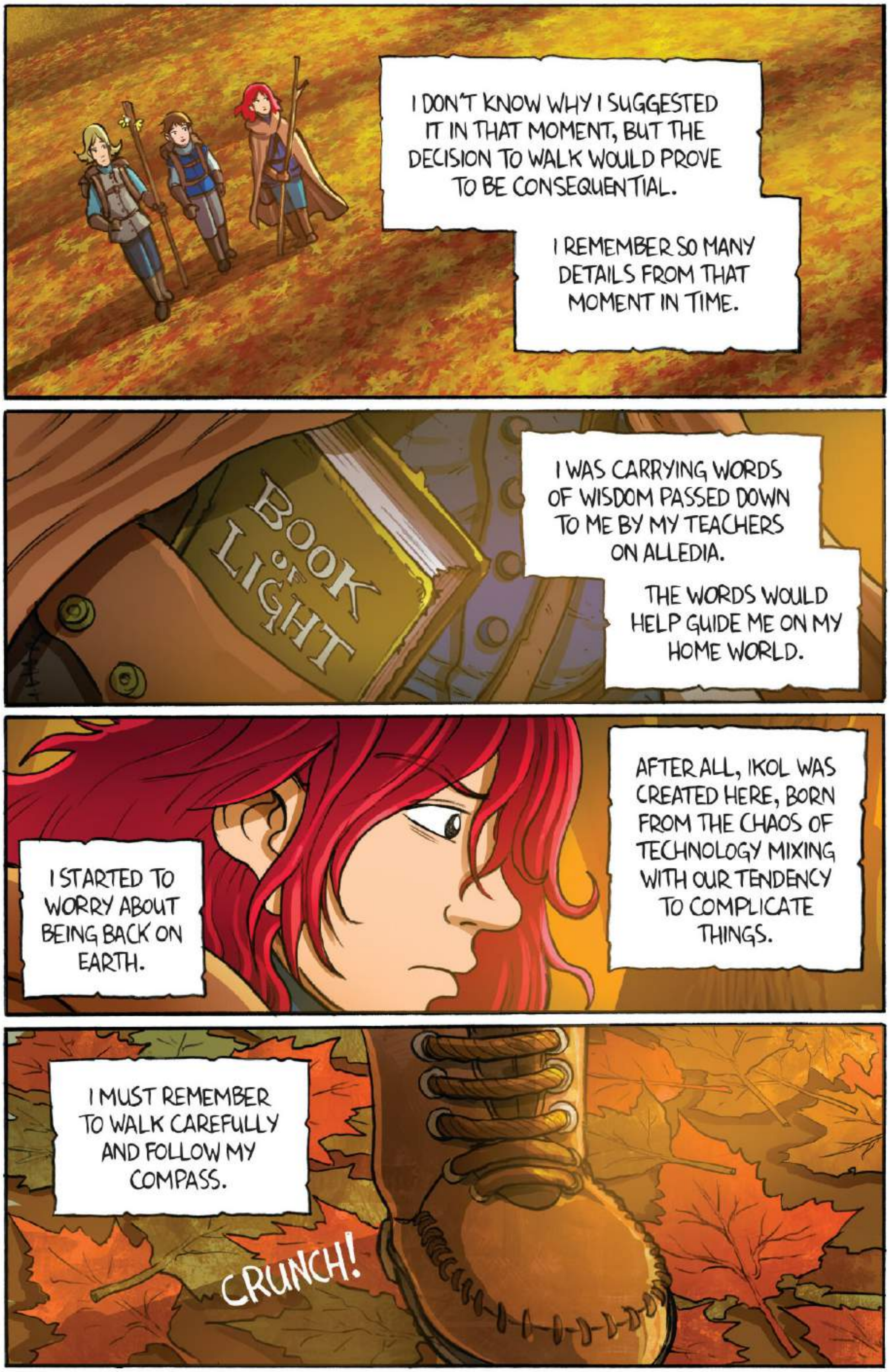

WHEN VIGO RETURNED FROM THE VOID, ALLEDIA SEEMED DIFFERENT.
HE SOON REALIZED THAT HE HAD TRAVELED THREE HUNDRED YEARS INTO THE PAST.
LUCIEN FISHM
HE COULD FEEL HIS LIFE NEARING ITS END...
HE HAD TO TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH US IN SOME WAY...
VIGO MANAGED TO FIND A SMALL PLACE TO STAY IN LUCIEN. AND THEN HE BEGAN TO WRITE.
HE SPENT HIS LAST DAYS WRITING "THE BOOK OF LIGHT."
AND AS THE BOOK CAME TO ITS CONCLUSION--
SO DID VIGO'S LIFE.
YEARS LATER, HIS BOOK FOUND ITS WAY TO SILAS CHARNON'S LIBRARY.

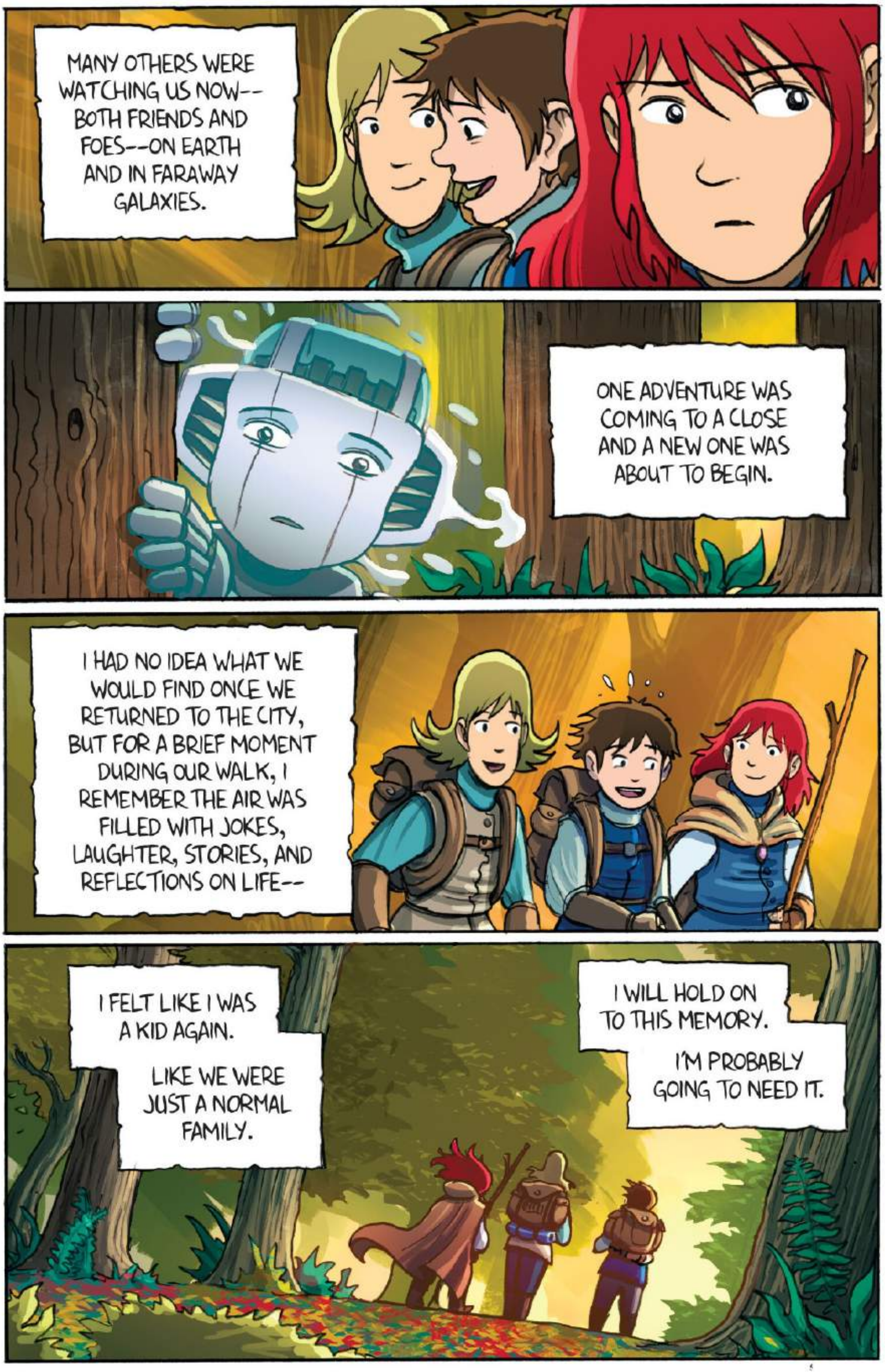

WHEN I REACHED THE END OF THE BOOK, IT CONCLUDED WITH A SENTENCE I KNEW TO BE TRUE. IT SAID,
"MAINTAINING THE PEACE WILL REQUIRE RETURNING TO WHERE THE CONFLICT BEGAN."
THE FEELING IN MY GUT WAS STRONG.
I KNEW WHAT WE HAD TO DO AND I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.
WE HAD TO RETURN TO EARTH.
I EXPLAINED TO TRELLIS WHY WE NEEDED TO GO BACK TO EARTH.
HE AGREED THAT MY RETURN WAS NECESSARY IN THE ONGOING FIGHT AGAINST THE SHADOWS.
I WILL MISS MY FRIENDS.
SO MUCH.


WE SAID OUR GOODBYES IN A CASUAL WAY, AS THOUGH WE WERE ONLY PARTING FOR A SHORT TIME, BUT WE KNEW IT WASN'T TRUE.
I WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.
WE JOURNEYED BACK INTO THE CAVERNS INSIDE DEMON'S HEAD MOUNTAIN.
BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
PLACES THAT HAD ONCE SEEMED DANGEROUS AND ALIEN TO US NOW FELT FAMILIAR.
IT WAS ALL SO BEAUTIFUL AND SERENE.
WE COULD WALK THROUGH ANY STRANGE NEW LAND WITHOUT FEAR IN OUR HEARTS.
IN PLACE OF FEAR WE FELT A LOVE FOR LIFE AND ITS MANY ADVENTURES.


WHEN WE BEGAN OUR JOURNEY, I FELT AS IF OUR LIVES WERE SPINNING OUT OF OUR CONTROL.
WHAT I LEARNED OVER THE YEARS IS THAT LIFE IS ALWAYS EBBING AND FLOWING, FROM GOOD DAYS TO BAD ONES.
WHILE WE CAN'T CONTROL LIFE ITSELF, WE CAN DO OUR BEST TO MANAGE HOW WE REACT TO WHAT IT PRESENTS TO US OVER TIME.
BY STAYING CALM, WE CAN MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES TO MOVE OUR LIVES FORWARD AND TO RIDE THE WAVES THAT SURROUND US.
EVEN IN THE MOST TRYING TIMES, YOU CAN FIND LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.
WE ALL HAVE WITHIN US A COMPASS, A GUIDING LIGHT. IF WE FOLLOW IT, WE CAN MAKE OUR WAY HOME.
BUT IT REQUIRES A WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN.


CHOICES IN LIFE ARE LIKE DOORWAYS THAT CAN LEAD TO LIGHT AND DARK PLACES.
WHILE THE PATH IS EVER-CHANGING, OUR COMPASS CAN GUIDE US.
WHAT I LEARNED MOST OF ALL THROUGH THE YEARS IS THAT I MUST CHOOSE TO ACT PROACTIVELY, AND NOT WAIT TOO LONG TO FOLLOW MY COMPASS.
EVERY DECISION HAS A RIPPLE EFFECT. MAKE A GOOD DECISION AND GOOD THINGS HAPPEN IN WAYS WE CANNOT FULLY COMPREHEND.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
CAN'T SAY I EXPECTED THAT TO WORK.
CAN YOU START THE CAR WITH YOUR POWERS?
I'D RATHER NOT DO THAT, MOM.
LET'S JUST WALK TO TOWN INSTEAD.


I DON'T KNOW WHY I SUGGESTED IT IN THAT MOMENT, BUT THE DECISION TO WALK WOULD PROVE TO BE CONSEQUENTIAL.
I REMEMBER SO MANY DETAILS FROM THAT MOMENT IN TIME.
BOOK OF LIGHT
I WAS CARRYING WORDS OF WISDOM PASSED DOWN TO ME BY MY TEACHERS ON ALLEDIA.
THE WORDS WOULD HELP GUIDE ME ON MY HOME WORLD.
I STARTED TO WORRY ABOUT BEING BACK ON EARTH.
AFTER ALL, IKOL WAS CREATED HERE, BORN FROM THE CHAOS OF TECHNOLOGY MIXING WITH OUR TENDENCY TO COMPLICATE THINGS.
I MUST REMEMBER TO WALK CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW MY COMPASS.
CRUNCH!


MANY OTHERS WERE WATCHING US NOW-- BOTH FRIENDS AND FOES--ON EARTH AND IN FARAWAY GALAXIES.
ONE ADVENTURE WAS COMING TO A CLOSE AND A NEW ONE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WOULD FIND ONCE WE RETURNED TO THE CITY, BUT FOR A BRIEF MOMENT DURING OUR WALK, I REMEMBER THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH JOKES, LAUGHTER, STORIES, AND REFLECTIONS ON LIFE--
I FELT LIKE I WAS A KID AGAIN.
LIKE WE WERE JUST A NORMAL FAMILY.
I WILL HOLD ON TO THIS MEMORY.
I'M PROBABLY GOING TO NEED IT.




THE END



